■ **Lifestyle / H1**

Flower biz coming up roses in Baguio

TAIWAN≠PHILIPPINES
Chen Shui-Bian=Marcos
Cheater-Liar-Corruptionist
Shame on A-Bian

World / A10

Massive protests hit Taiwan

■ **Talk of the Town / A16**

Loren: Let's solve poverty first

■ **Sports / A28**

Thorpe out of 400-m free in Olympics

■ **Magazine / Q1**

Hermie Who?

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Rod Reyes: Snake pit to vipers' nest

KAHIT SA KAMPO NG LAWIN, MAY MGA AHAS DIN!

By Carlito Pablo

CEBU CITY—If Malacañang is a snake pit, the camp of opposition presidential contender Fernando Poe Jr. appears to be a vipers' nest.

Rodolfo Reyes, media

ROD/ A9

Mental patients in haven for street kids stirs worries

By Volt Contreras

IT'S SUPPOSED to be a haven, not a madhouse.

The Jose Fabella Center in Mandaluyong City is a halfway house for vagrants and street children who have been "rescued" from the streets of Metro Manila.

MENTAL/ A9

Bailout illegal, MWSS told

Lawyer warned of graft, advised rejection of Maynilad deal

By Philip C. Tubeza

ITS OWN legal consultant had warned the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) against approving the proposed plan to "bailout" the debt-riddled Maynilad Water Services as this would violate the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, documents obtained by the INQUIRER showed.

In a four-page memorandum dated March 16, 2004, MWSS legal consultant Leonardo Amores warned the MWSS board of trustees that approving the deal would not only make the board answerable for graft, it could also lead to a "conflict of interest" situation as the MWSS would be regulating a company in which it owned stock.

But MWSS administrator Orlando Hondrade played down Amores' warning, arguing that Justice Undersecretary Manuel A.J. Teehankee, who advised the government panel that negotiated with Maynilad, had assured the board that the deal would be upheld "in any court."

In the memo, Amores said he "could not find any suitable or even minuscule ground to justify the approval by MWSS of the proposed plan submitted by Maynilad for its rehabilitation."

Amores said approving the proposed Maynilad rehabilitation plan "may expose" the MWSS officials to prosecution for violation of Section 3 of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, which warns government officials against entering into any "grossly disadvantageous" agreement or transaction, "whether or not the public officer profited or will profit thereby."

The law also warns against giving any private party "unwarranted benefits, advantage or preference."

He warned the members of the board that they would be "treading on dangerous ground" if they approved the plan, and recommended that it be rejected.

The MWSS board, however, approved the plan on March 17.

The MWSS and Maynilad had been locked in a legal dispute since last year when the Lopez-controlled firm announced that it was ending its 25-year concession agreement with the MWSS to supply water to the western zone of Metro Manila. ***(See related story on Page A8.)***

Under the terms of the compromise settlement, the Lopez Group's Benpres Holdings was to write off its holdings in Maynilad, its joint venture with the French-based Ondeo Phil.

The plan provided for the partial conversion of Maynilad's more than P7 billion in unpaid concession fees to the MWSS into equity, leaving the MWSS with majority control of the utility.

In an interview, Hondrade said

BAILOUT/ A8

EDWIN BACASMAS

SEEING STARS: Trying to neutralize President Macapagal's dominance in the Visayas, Susan Roces campaigns for her husband Fernando Poe Jr. in Cebu City on Saturday to double his star power. Although not a Cebuana, Roces reminded voters that she's also Visayan being an Ilongga from Bacolod. The KNP confirmed that its presidential standard-bearer is focusing on the region.

PDI PHOTO

THE FLOATING restaurant cum casino (proposed by Ho during during the Estrada administration) that never was may be again.

Dan who? Never heard, Palace says of Ho escort

By Juliet Labog-Javellana
in Manila
and Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

DAN who?

President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye and his deputy Ricardo Saludo yesterday said it was the first time they had heard of a Dan Roleda as a presidential adviser on foreign investments.

Neither official could explain why Roleda welcomed and escorted Asia's gambling mogul Stanley Ho on Monday at Clark, Pampanga, despite Malacañang's official denials of any business or political dealings with the tycoon.

"Dan who? First time I heard the name," Bunye said in a phone interview.

According to Bunye, presidential advisers hold Cabinet rank and take part in Cabinet meetings, and he had not encountered the name or person of Roleda.

Opposition presidential candidate Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the administration had opened itself to suspicion with Roleda's welcoming the gambling czar. He said Roleda was once a lawyer of Ho's.

The otherwise proper Bunye suggested that Roleda, who arrived at Clark in a government helicopter, could well be among the "sexual advisers."

"We call on them if we need their f-ing advice," he said. He did not say if Ms Macapagal had such advisers.

The important thing, Bunye said, was that Ms Macapagal did not meet with Ho even if the two were in Pampanga at the same time last week, and that the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. had had no dealings with him.

Bunye denied reports that Ho had contributed P700 million to Ms Macapagal's campaign chest in exchange for a casino project in the

DAN/ A8

Ex-Comelec media chief: It's GMA ads

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE SACKED information chief of the Commission on Elections said his statements on the controversial use of political ads by President Macapagal-Arroyo may have been the reason for his sudden transfer to eastern Visayas.

"How can you believe that the Comelec is sincere in prosecuting violators when I myself, a career officer, am being relieved for merely explaining the law?" Ferdinand Rafanan asked.

Rafanan had been director of the Comelec's education and information department until last week when he received word that he was being moved to Tacloban, Leyte as Region 8 director.

But Rafanan is not about to go down without a fight.

He told the INQUIRER he believed his relief from the infor-

EX-COMELEC/ A8

THE CHARM OFFENSIVE ELECTION 2004

ERIK ARAZAS

JOSE RIZAL UNIVERSITY, MANDALUYONG: But can they vote? "But they each have two parents, aunts and uncles. A child's endorsement is priceless. All my life I go to the children whenever I campaign. They are the focus of my goals," Roco says.

'Who says I'm arrogant? I have no bodyguards'

Editor's Note: The INQUIRER continues a series of essays on the campaign style and impact of the five presidential candidates, a two-parter for each in alphabetical order.

By Emmie G. Velarde, *Desk Editor*

(Last of two parts)

"I HAVE seven others, exactly like this one," Raul Roco said of the bright red shirt with white flowers that he was wearing, like the one in his posters.

No question is too trivial for the standard-bearer of Alyansa ng Pag-Asa. Besides, flora is one of his favorite non-political subjects. He earlier said his presidential wardrobe would consist of *barong Tagalog* with gumamela (hibiscus) designs.

"But," he added before boarding the SUV that would take him to the coastal district of Talomo in Davao del Norte,

WHO SAYS/ A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly over eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/03/28/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

DISQUALIFICATION CASES

Ombudsman to probe GMA

By Armand N. Nocum

IGNORING Malacañang's view that disqualification cases filed against President Macapagal-Arroyo were "election-related," the Office of the Ombudsman said yesterday it would seriously look into four of these complaints filed not only against the President but other officials before the anti-graft body.

Earlier, the President claimed that six disqualification cases filed before the Commission on Elections were aimed at giving her detractors and the opposition "an opportunity to grandstand in the media."

"We are going to investigate and evaluate these cases to see whether they are complete in substance and form," Assistant Ombudsman Ernesto Nocos told the INQUIRER yesterday, adding that the survey did not agree with Malacañang's view that the cases were meant to drum up support for opposition candidates.

Nocos, who is also the anti-graft body's spokesperson, said that although the President was immune from suit, this would not stop them from conducting an investigation to see whether any of the cases could lead to an impeachment complaint. "The President is not outside our jurisdiction as far as the conduct of an investigation arising from the complaints is concerned," Nocos said.

He, however, said the other officials charged with the President could get the ax earlier if there was any basis for the charges filed against them. "If there is probable cause in the cases filed against non-impeachable officials, then these cases can reach the courts, minus the President," he said.

Former Bureau of Land Transportation head Mariano Santiago, who had filed a disqualification and criminal case against the President for the alleged illegal use of the P1.4 billion road user's tax (RUT), also said his case cannot be construed as being politically motivated.

"I am not running for office, nor am I campaigning for any political candidate," he said.

Apart from the President, Santiago included in his charge Secretaries Florante Soriquez, Emilia Boncodin, Juanita Amatong and Leandro R. Mendoza, heads of the public works, budget, finance and transportation departments of the governments, respectively.

Santiago also sought the immediate suspension of Soriquez, Boncodin, Amatong and Mendoza to "protect the documents" on the alleged misuse of the road user's tax for the President's campaign.

The President was named principal respondent in the case, for having allegedly approved the use of P1.4 billion for the implementation of the public works department's "Kalsada Natin, Alagaan Natin" project.

He said the President and Soriquez, as ex-officio chair of the National Road Board, and other public works officials may have "conspired" to violate the provisions of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, the Revised Penal Code and the law on plunder.

"I specifically accuse (the President) with committing plunder of public funds, considering that she had indirectly acquired and converted these as if it were her own, and for her benefit, the more than P1.4 billion used for her election propaganda," he said.

He also asked the government to order the public works and budget departments and the National Treasurer to freeze the funds and to withhold payments due contractors of the project.

The first graft case against the President was filed by private prosecutors in the plunder case against ousted President Joseph Estrada. They accused Ms Macapagal of violating custodial laws by allowing Estrada to stay at his rest house across from his detention quarters at Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal.

Corruption report on Erap wrong, says Poe

By Carlito Pablo

CEBU CITY—Saying it was premature to judge his friend of 40 years, opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. yesterday defended ousted President Joseph Estrada who was included in the list of corrupt world leaders of the London-based Transparency International.

A non-profit watchdog that reports on corruption issues worldwide, TI placed Estrada 10th on its list for having allegedly stolen $70-80 million while in office. *(See related story on Page A7)*

"I think the report is wrong, They (TI) should look closely at the allegation that Mr. Estrada stole money," Poe told reporters on the second day of his campaign swing Cebu. "Anyway, his trial isn't over yet," he added. The former president is facing plunder charges before the Sandiganbayan.

Estrada, who is detained at Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal, said he plans to sue the global group.

In previous interviews, Poe was asked how he would treat Estrada should he win the presidential election. Poe's standard answer was he would allow the courts to decide Estrada's fate.

Friends since their moviemaking days, Poe also backed Estrada when the latter ventured into politics, and endorsed his candidacies for mayor, senator, vice president and eventually, president in the 1998 elections.

Political analysts had said Estrada could be a liability for Poe.

Estrada's son Jinggoy, a former mayor who is Estrada's co-accused in the plunder charges, is running for a Senate seat under the Poe-led Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino.

President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier urged voters to reject candidates identified with Estrada and the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Marcos' daughter Rep. Imee Marcos is a staunch Poe supporter.

The TI report ranked Marcos as the second most corrupt leader in the world after Indonesia's Suharto. Mobutu Sese Seko (Zaire), Sani Abacha (Nigeria), Slobodan Milosevic (Serbia), Jean-Claude Duvalier (Haiti) and Alberto Fujimori (Peru) were ranked after Marcos in that order.

News of Estrada's inclusion in the TI list drew a sharp reaction from Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama, who said Estrada and Poe's "posturings" to distance themselves from each other was just "political zarzuela."

Miriam mulls raps vs GMA 'tormentors'

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's camp plans to turn the tables on the two opposition senatorial candidates who petitioned the Supreme Court to make the President take a leave of absence because of her alleged use of government resources in the campaign.

Former Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who is the President's private counsel in the disqualification cases against her, said Aminah Rasul-Bernardo and Boots Anson Roa could be charged with coercion for preventing the President from carrying on with her campaign.

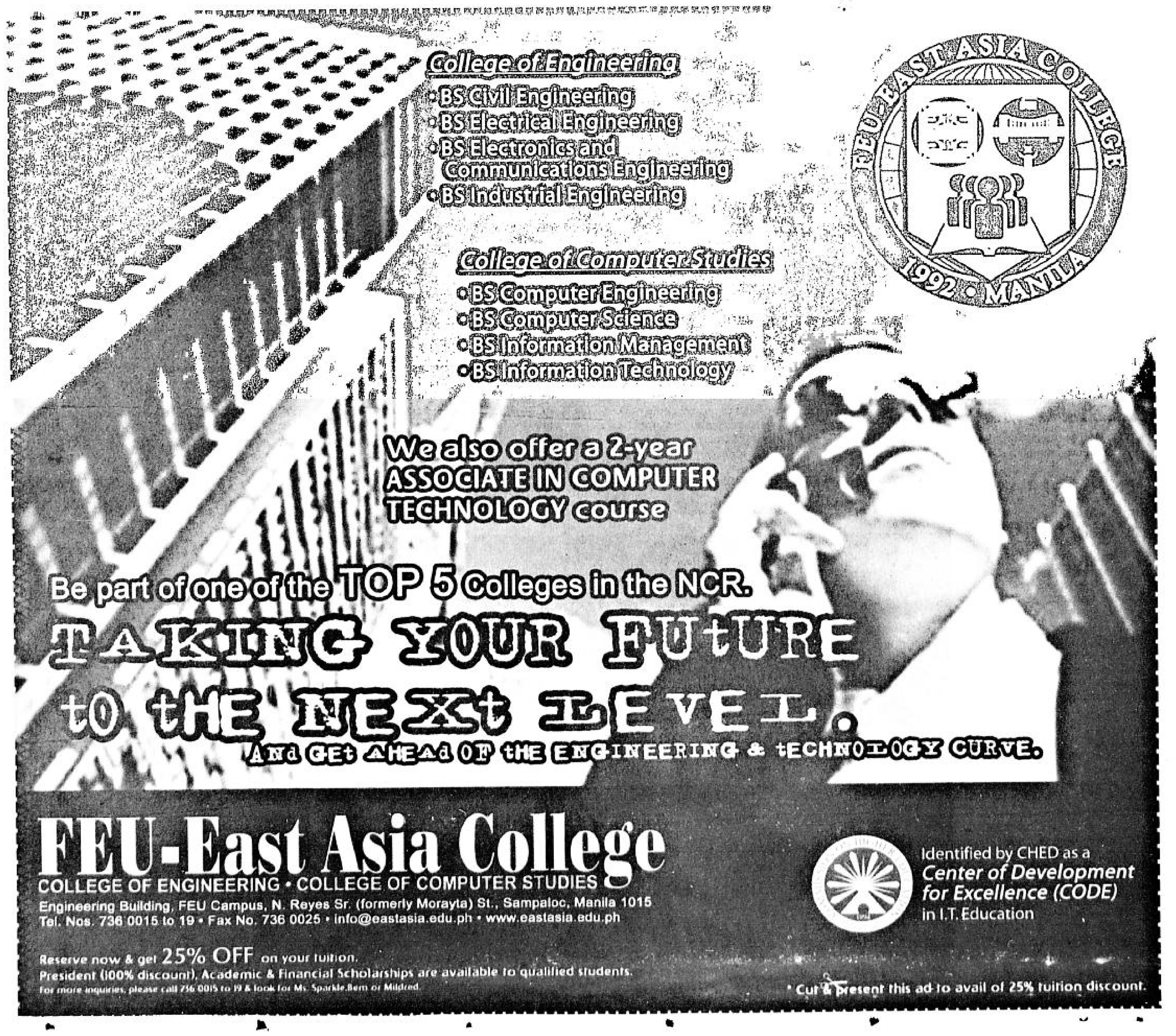
She said coercion is an election offense under the Election Code, along with threats, intimidation, terrorism and the use of fraudulent devices to affect a candidate.

"Thus, any person who threatens, intimidates or actually causes any damage, loss or disadvantage upon any person ... to compel (a candidate) to refrain or desist from his or her campaigning is committing an election offense," said Santiago, herself a senatorial candidate of the administration's K-4 coalition.

She said Rasul and Roa, candidates of Fernando Poe Jr.'s Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, were "themselves in danger of being disqualified for committing an election offense."

Santiago said that as in the case of the President, the counter-suit would not stop the candidacy of the two women senatorial aspirants. But, she said, this would mean they would be busy having to defend themselves.

She said that in Pimentel vs the Comelec in 1998, persons charged with election offenses would not only undergo preliminary investigation but a full trial.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Roco invites GMA to sign pact vs funds misuse

By Michael Lim Ubac

THIS TIME, President Macapagal-Arroyo is invited.

Alyansa ng Pag-Asa presidential candidate Raul Roco said in Dumaguete City that next week most of the major political parties would be signing a covenant against the misuse of public funds.

The covenant, which had been agreed upon in principle by four presidential candidates, would identify specific public funds that cannot be touched by government officials for election purposes.

"We must stop the use of public funds now. There is a whole appendix of public funds being misused ... and we'll even sign an agreement. If Macapagal-Arroyo is willing to sign that, then it's well and good," said Roco.

"Today, we will add Stanley Ho to that appendix," he said.

Roco did not say who initiated the covenant, but disclosed that four political parties had already agreed to support it.

He was referring to the Alyansa ng Pag-Asa, Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, Bangon Pilipinas and the splinter group from the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino led by presidential candidate Panfilo Lacson.

Unlike the first covenant—which focused on a concerted effort to resist fraud or cheating by the administration in the May polls—this covenant would bind parties to deter the misuse of public funds in this election.

'Where her heart is'

"I hope it pushes through. It is something all the presidential candidates, including President Macapagal should be concerned with," said Roco. "We will invite her."

And if she refuses?

"Then we know where her heart is," Roco said.

Quoting from a draft of the covenant, Roco said its essence was that "unless we can stop the misuse of public funds during the campaign, then we shall repeat the continued misuse of public funds."

He said that all incumbent officials from the President down to barangay kagawad—whether seeking office or not—should adhere to the covenant.

He cited the example of city mayors who were using all available government funds to win elections. "What would the next mayor gain if the city is already bankrupt?"

Vote-buying

Breaking his silence on moves to disqualify Ms Macapagal for allegedly using public funds, Roco accused her of squandering government money, resources and influence to buy votes.

"The main line of the administration is that they have money and they are showing it. They are using money to buy votes; it's a disregard for sovereignty," said Roco, referring to the use of funds from Philhealth, government insurance, road user's tax, overseas administration and veterans funds for campaign purposes.

Quit race

On Friday, while campaigning in Ozamis City in Misamis Occidental, Roco issued his strongest challenge to Ms Macapagal: Back out of the presidential race and serve as full-time president until June 30.

"She should not be a candidate at all," said Roco, calling on Ms Macapagal to fulfill the promise she made before the monument of Dr. Jose Rizal on Dec. 30, 2002.

Roco said that since she assumed the unexpired term of then President Joseph Estrada in 2001 by accident, it would be easy to believe that the Constitutional prohibition on a sitting President to seek reelection did not apply to her.

Still, "the spirit of the Constitution, in fact, does not allow her to run" so she would not utilize the entire political machinery of the government to perpetuate herself in power, said Roco.

Running mate Herminio Aquino said that should Ms Macapagal heed Roco's advice, she would leave a legacy that would be etched in the nation's collective memory forever.

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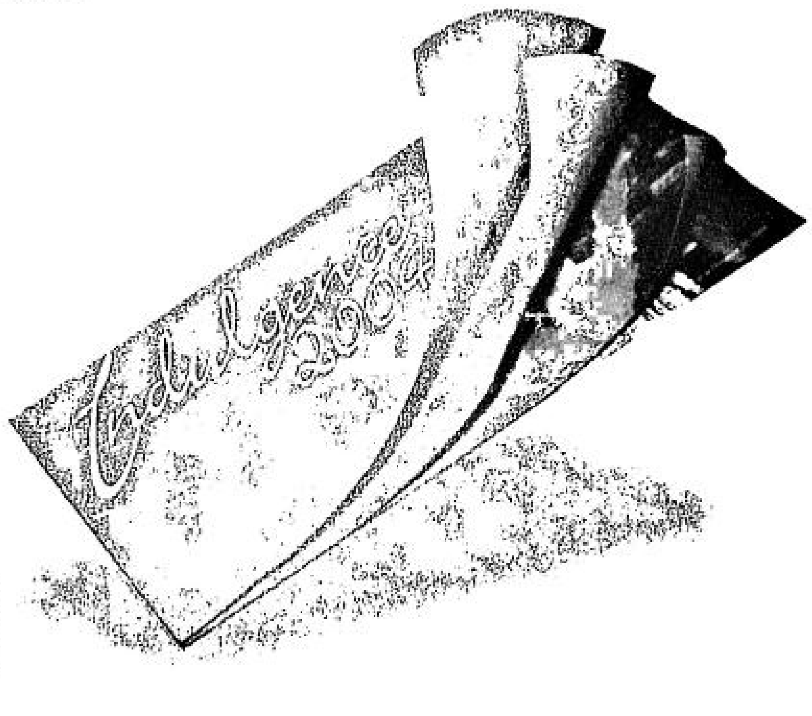

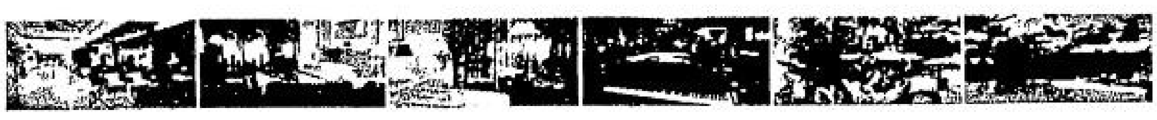

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Muslims protest raid on QC center

A MUSLIM group has condemned Friday's raid on an Islamic center in Quezon City which resulted in the arrest of two suspected women terrorists, saying it was conducted to justify the implementation of an ID system for Muslims.

"The raid was an indication the police are hell-bent on concocting anything to convince [the public] that terrorists are hiding in Muslim communities in Metro Manila. What they're doing is a conditioning mechanism to turn public opinion against Muslims," said Amirah Ali Lidasan, nominee of the Suara Bangsamoro Party-list group.

The group said it would file charges against the operatives of the National Capital Region Police Office and the Central Police District-Special Weapons and Tactics team who conducted the raid on the Islamic Center on Ermin Garcia St. in Cubao.

Lidasan said the Armalites, rifle grenades, blasting caps and block of C-4 explosive reportedly seized during the raid had been planted by the policemen. *Tina Santos*

PDI BAGS ANVIL AWARDS

The Philippine Daily Inquirer took home three merit awards during Friday's 39th Anvil Awards. The newspaper won awards for its recycling campaign called New Paper Drive, INQUIRER's Youth Readership Program and for the New INQUIRER Job Market. Accepting the awards were, from left, INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto, assistant vice president for strategic marketing communications Celine Madamba, Anvil Awards chair Cynthia Gruet and INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot. The awards are given annually by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines to companies with outstanding institutional and corporate PR programs.

RANDY HORMILLOSA

'Enhanced autonomy' unacceptable–MILF

SULTAN KUDARAT—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front said on Friday a government offer of "enhanced autonomy" in the south was unacceptable, raising doubts over the recent peace process.

The government proposal was tantamount to surrender for the MILF's 12,000 armed rebels, Mohaqher Iqbal, a member of the MILF central committee and head of the rebels' negotiating team, told Reuters.

"What they are referring to as an 'enhanced autonomy' is actually lesser autonomy because, basically, this is demobilization," he said.

Iqbal said the proposal, which he saw ahead of a planned resumption of formal peace talks, was unacceptable because it required the MILF to disarm and the Muslims of southern Mindanao to assimilate with the Catholic majority.

In 1996, the then largest Muslim rebel group made peace with the government in exchange for autonomy in four Muslim regions, but the MILF has held out for independence. Its minimum demand is for a referendum among the region's five million Muslims.

Despite the autonomy agreement, the region remains among the nation's poorest and most militarized.

Malaysia has been brokering peace talks between the Philippine government and the MILF, with formal talks expected to start in Kuala Lumpur next month. An advance team of Malaysian monitors is visiting rebel areas this week to assess the state of a fragile cease-fire.

Iqbal said the rebel movement was in no hurry to strike a deal with the government ahead of May 10 national elections.

"We're finding a more innovative approach in solving the problem," he said.

"The position of the MILF depends on what the Bangsamoro (Muslim) people want," Iqbal added. "We merely articulate what the people want. Our people want self-determination, not necessarily independence, but as long as we are allowed to govern ourselves in our own territory."

With progress towards an overall peace settlement seen as unlikely for now, Iqbal said the Malaysia talks would likely focus initially on the thorny issue of ancestral domain, which covers the exploration and exploitation of resources in Muslim-dominated areas in Mindanao and nearby island chains.

"We can expect that there will be hard bargaining on that aspect," said Iqbal. *Reuters*

Ping's preference for Veep: No back-stabber, schemer

By Norman Bordadora

TUGUEGARAO, Cagayan Valley—Someone who would not stab him in the back.

That is the kind of vice president Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson said he would like to have if he win the presidency on May 10.

"I've nobody in particular in mind," the independent Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino candidate told reporters yesterday when asked who among the current vice presidential candidates he would rather work with if he won.

"I just hope for two things—that (he or she) would not be someone who'd pray that I die and that (he or she) would not scheme behind my back to have me ousted," said Lacson, who has no running mate.

Lacson's first condition may well have been made in jest—a vice president, after all, is just a heartbeat away from the presidency.

The second sounded like another dig at President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Even before President Joseph Estrada was ousted in a "people power" revolt in January 2001, supporters of then vice President Macapagal within the military, business sector and the Church were already working behind the scenes to unify and strengthen their ranks in the event of her takeover.

Campaigning in the north, Lacson pressed his denunciation of alleged corruption under the Macapagal administration, highlighted by the filing of seven disqualification cases against her before the Commission on Elections and the courts.

Lacson said that, if the British-based Transparency International anti-corruption organization found out about corruption under Ms Macapagal, she might overtake deposed Presidents Ferdinand Marcos and Estrada on the list of most corrupt world leaders.

"If they discover the corruption (under Macapagal), Marcos and Estrada might be taken off the list," Lacson said.

He accused Ms Macapagal of spending government resources for her presidential campaign, including those of the Philippine Health Insurance Commission and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

Lacson claimed information had also reached him that the President had been calling superintendents and treasurers of schools offering them funds in exchange for their support in May.

"She's been offering them this and that, as if there's no tomorrow," he said. "And she's doing that while the finance department is having a hard time looking for sources of funds."

If this goes on, the Philippines may become another Argentina, its government unable to find any more sources of funds because foreign creditors refuse to lend it money, Lacson said.

Journalists set 4th Congress

THE NATIONAL Union of Journalists of the Philippines will hold its 4th National Congress on April 15 at the SSS Ramon Magsaysay Hall in Quezon City.

With the theme "Media Under Fire," the convention will discuss a journalist's concerns, particularly job-related attacks, physical threats, censorship, suppression and poor working conditions.

Founding director and convention chair Joel P. Palacios said that delegates fro[illegible] NUJP chapters have signified [illegible] intention to participate in the convention.

Members who wish to attend the one-day affair may contact the NUJP Secretariat at tel. 400-5059 (look for Bernadette/Badet) or send e-mail to: nujp_manila@yahoo.com or join the e-group for updates at nujphil@yahoogroups.com.

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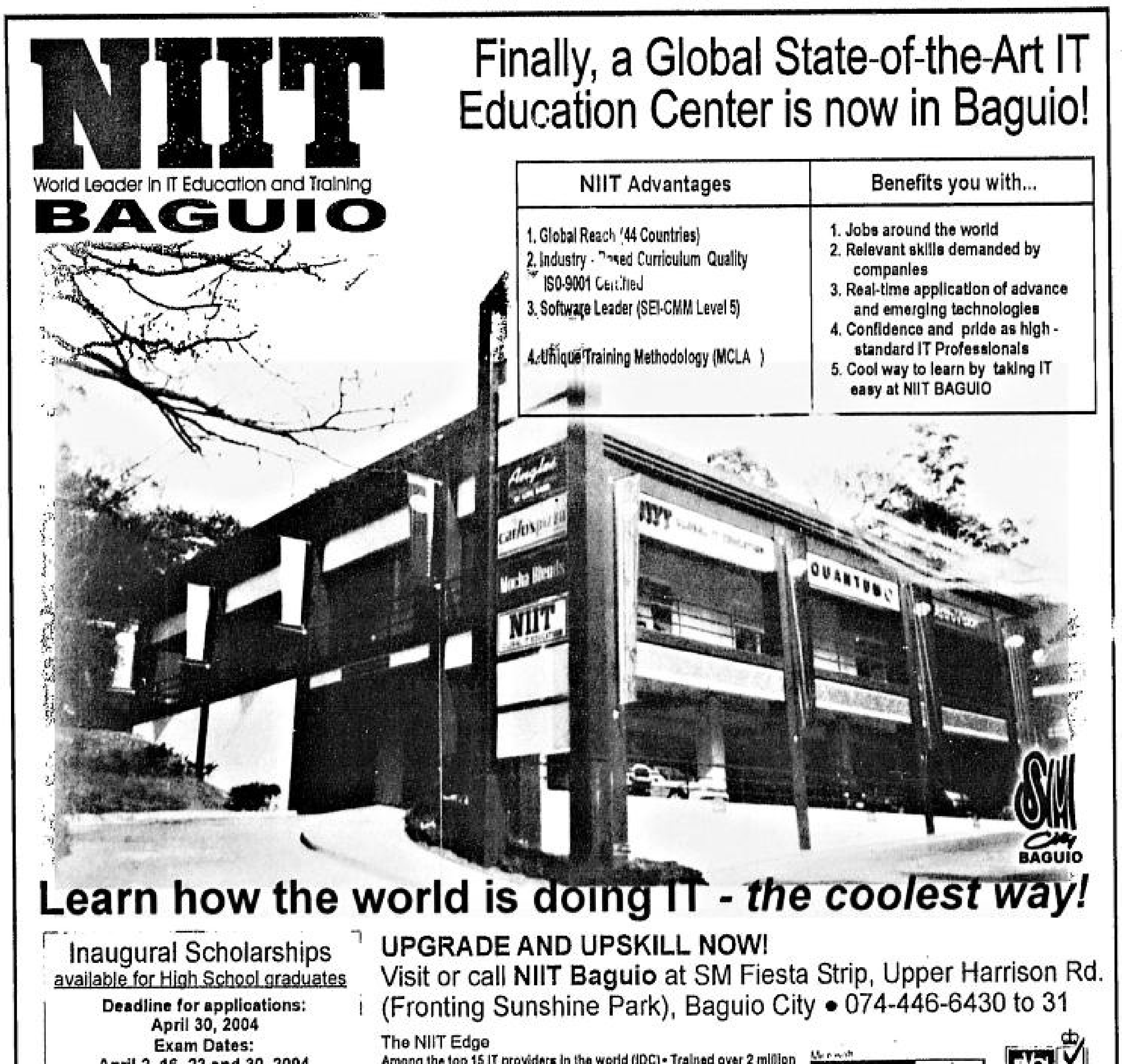

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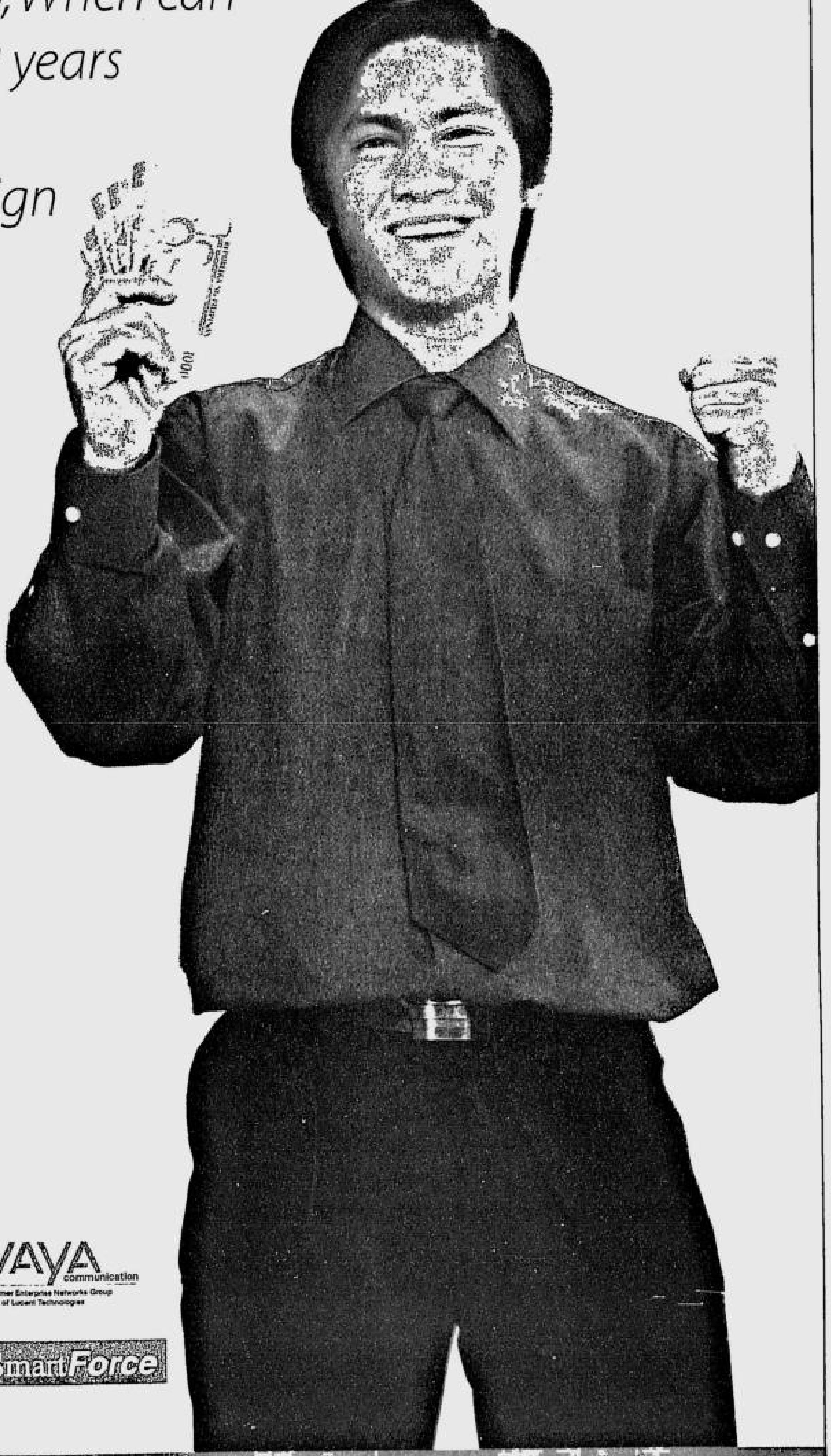

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Mystical Mt. Banahaw 'closed' for 5-yr rehab

Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—A group of government officials and environmentalists started on Thursday to seal off with barbed wire the trails leading to the bosom of mystical Mt. Banahaw. This begins the five-year rehabilitation program to resurrect the lost grandeur of the mountain's natural resources.

Sally Pangan, protected area supervisor assigned by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to Mt. Banahaw, led a group composed of government foresters, volunteer mountaineers, Tanggol Kalikasan personnel, media, police and military in putting up the barbed wire near Cristalino Falls.

"The closure was a multisectoral effort. We're one in our decision to temporarily close the mountain for much-needed rest and rehabilitation," Pangan said.

Too many, Mt. Banahaw is inhabited by spirits, elementals and other-worldly beings. Many believers trek its slopes in hopes of experiencing something divine, particularly during Lent.

Manny Calayag, Dolores municipal and natural resources officer, said a composite team of civilian volunteers and policemen would guard the fenced entrance against trespassers.

The communist New People's Army also proclaimed its cooperation. A source in the rebel movement said they would help guard the area against intruders.

"The NPA will not conduct any harassment against government forces while guarding the area," the source said.

The Protected Area Management Board, a multisectoral group tasked by the government with safeguarding the area, passed a resolution early this month enforcing a five-year closure of Mounts Banahaw and San Cristobal Protected Landscape beginning Holy Week.

President Macapagal-Arroyo gave her approval of the measure during her campaign swing through in Quezon province last week.

The group utilized at least three rolls of barbed wire, measuring 300 meters, in blocking the trail. "We were able to cover the trail with at least five layers of barbed wire," Jay Lim, Tanggol Kalikasan community coordinator, told the INQUIRER.

Lim said the closure was supposed to start on April 1 but the group decided to advance the schedule due to reports from village officials that pilgrims and other regular mountain visitors had started to arrive.

A MULTISECTORAL group strings Mt. Banahaw with barbed wire to allow the magical mountain to rest.

TANGGOL KALIKASAN/CONTRIBUTOR

"We have to move fast before Mt. Banahaw teems with devotees and thrill seekers. We want to avoid discussions with intransigent groups," Calayag said.

Village officials from Barangay Bugon in Sariaya town, another entry to Mt. Banahaw, said they would also seal the entrance to the trail in the coming days, as soon as the rest of the barbed wire had been delivered.

"We were told they would climb on the Laguna side of Mt. Banahaw," Lim said.

Calayag said that Tatlong Tangke, another trail on the other side of the mountain, would also be fenced off before the end of the month.

NPA burns power plant; 5 killed

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo on Saturday ordered government forces to tighten security at vital installations after communist guerrillas burned a power plant and killed five people.

The attack on the Ormoc power plant, which resulted in the death of two policemen and three company employees, was the second such raid by the New People's Army on a power installation this year.

The President said the attack was "a crime against the people and shows total disregard for the lives of ordinary civilians.

"I have directed the (national police) and the armed forces to intensify security measures in vital installations and other government facilities in the provinces," she said.

In January, seven people were killed when NPA rebels raided a military detachment guarding a power plant in Calaca town, south of Manila.

The communists have stepped up attacks in recent weeks in the run-up to the May 10 national elections.

The armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, the NPA has been waging a 35-year Maoist guerrilla campaign. *AFP*

Meet set

THE PHILIPPINE Association for Language Teaching is its 2nd International Convention on Language Education on April 21-23 at the Manila Hotel.

For inquiries, call Dr. Helen Parcon at 682-0596 or 0918-368-3382, or Prof. Magelende Flores at the University of the Philippines Dept. of English at 926-3496 or 937-8631.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, March 28, 2004
5th Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Is 43:16-21

Thus says Yahweh, who opened a way through the sea and a path in the mighty waters, who brought down chariots and horses,

a whole army of them, and there they lay, never to rise again, snuffed out like a wick.

But do not dwell on the past, or remember the things of old.

Look, I am doing a new thing: now it springs forth. Do you not see? I am opening up a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

The beasts of the land will honor me, jackals and ostriches, because I give water in the wilderness and rivers in the desert that my chosen people may drink.

I have formed this people for myself; they will proclaim my praise.

2nd Reading: Phil 3:8-14

Everything seems to me as nothing compared with the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord. For his sake I have let everything fall away and I now consider all as garbage, if instead I may gain Christ. May I be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the Law, but with the righteousness that God gives to those who believe.

May I know him and experience the power of his resurrection and share in his sufferings and become like him in his death, and attain through this, God willing, the resurrection from the dead!

I do not believe I have already reached the goal, nor do I consider myself perfect, but I press on till I conquer Christ Jesus, as I have already been conquered by him. No, brothers and sisters, I do not claim to have claimed the prize yet. I say only this: forgetting what is behind me, I race forward and run towards the goal, my eyes on the prize to which God has called us from above in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: Jn 8:1-11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak Jesus appeared in the Temple again. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them.

Then the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees brought in a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They made her stand in front of everyone. "Master," they said, "this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now the Law of Moses orders that such women be stoned to death; but you, what do you say?" They said this to test Jesus, in order to have some charge against him.

Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. And as they continued to ask him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who has no sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And he bent down again, writing on the ground.

As a result of these words, they went away, one by one, starting with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Then Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replied, "No one." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go away and don't sin again."

Commentary

Last Sunday we had the story of the prodigal son, with its theme of God's loving mercy. Today we see it being worked out in reality.

Everything was clear until Jesus started: the woman was a sinner, her accusers could remain just accusers. It had the clarity of logic, and it was meant to trap him. Everyone knows, of course, that this clarity is deceptive: no one is squeaky clean ("All have sinned" Rom 3:23). So they have to appeal to the clarity of a written law. The gowns and wigs that lawyers wear in court (in some countries) enable them to some degree to be uninvolved at the personal level. I'm sure it's a necessary insulation in their case; but in this case the accusers wanted to be very personal indeed, using the law only as a noose.

If Jesus said, "No, she must not be put to death!" they could accuse him of breaking the Law; and if he said, "The Law has to be obeyed," his teaching about the mercy of God (for example, his story of the prodigal son) would only be fine words. It was a trap.

The brilliant way in which he sprang their trap on themselves makes this one of the world's great stories. It shows that mercy isn't the sentimentality of soft-minded people, but a power that goes straight to the heart of the matter—and to the human heart.

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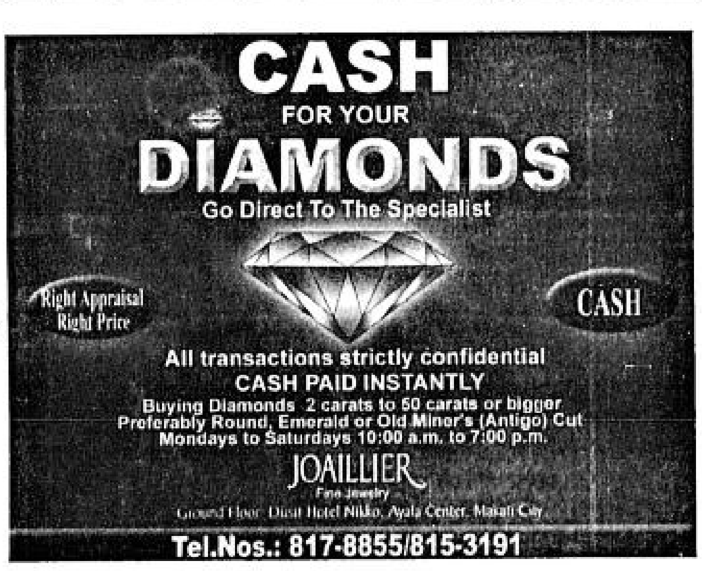

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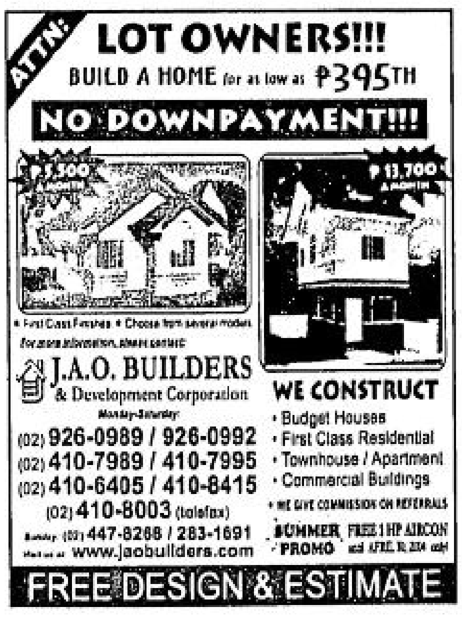

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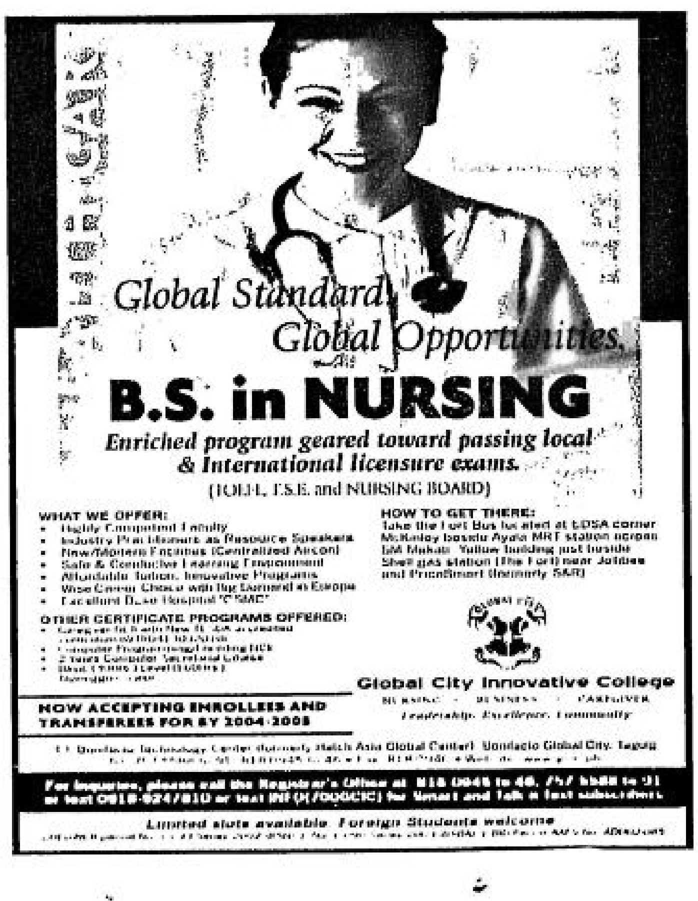

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Suharto lawyer slams corruption report

JAKARTA, Indonesia—A lawyer for ex-Indonesian leader Suharto on Saturday slammed as "politically motivated" a report by a global watchdog that identified him as the world's most corrupt former leader.

Lawyer Mohammad Assegaf said the accusations contained in the Berlin-based Transparency International's report were false and "out of date news."

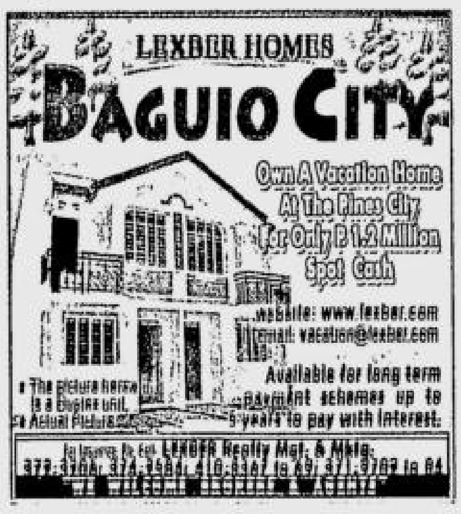
He accused the group of releasing the report to discredit Suharto's eldest daughter, Siti Hardiyanti Rukmana, who is running for parliament in next month's polls.

"We believe there is political motivation behind the announcement," Assegaf said.

This was denied, however, by TI's Indonesia specialist Emmy Hafild, who said the report's release "was just a good coincidence."

The report accused Suharto, who was deposed in 1998, of embezzling between $15 billion and $35 billion.

Former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos was second on the list with $5 billion to $10 billion plundered. The Philippines had another leader on the list at No. 10, Joseph Estrada, who allegedly plundered $78 million to $80 million during his three-year rule. *AP*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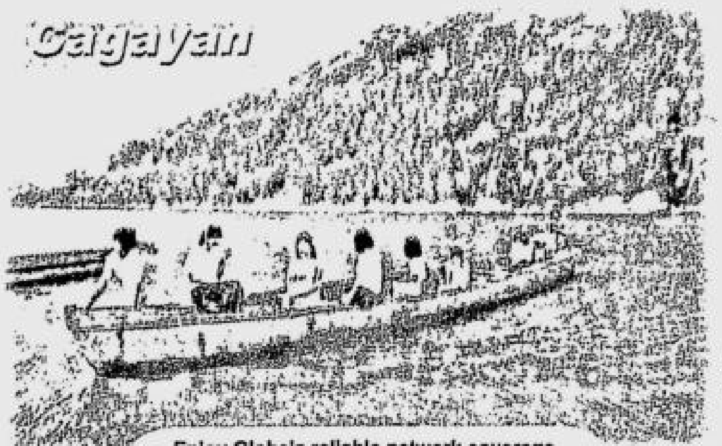

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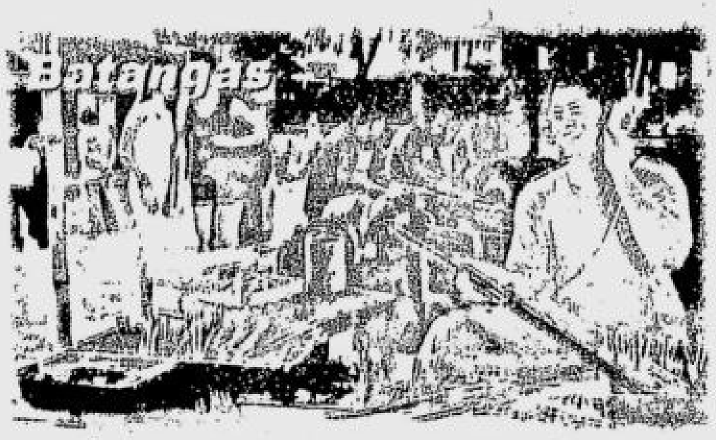

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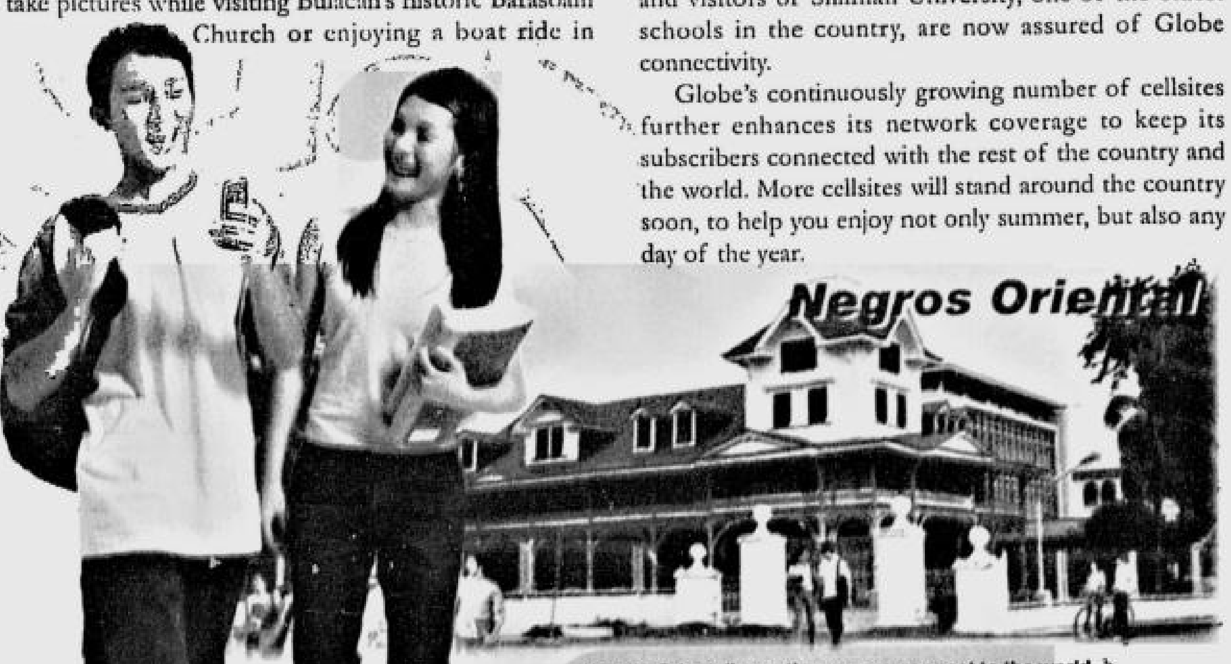


Negros Oriental's youth may now connect to the world around them via Globe's new cellsites.

Suharto lawyer slams corruption report

JAKARTA, Indonesia—A lawyer for ex-Indonesian leader Suharto on Saturday slammed as "politically motivated" a report by a global watchdog that identified him as the world's most corrupt former leader.

Lawyer Mohammad Assegaf said the accusations contained in the Berlin-based Transparency International's report were false and "out of date news."

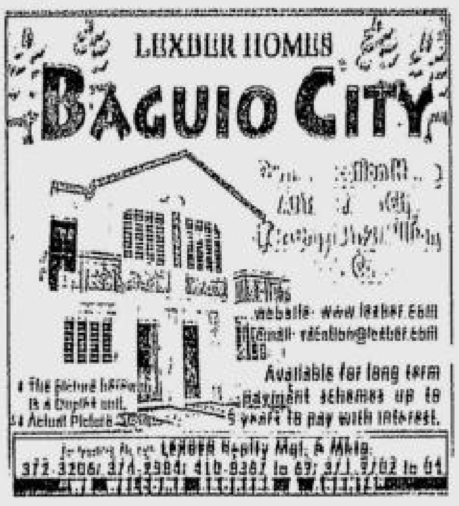
He accused the group of releasing the report to discredit Suharto's eldest daughter, Siti Hardiyanti Rukmana, who is running for parliament in next month's polls.

"We believe there is political motivation behind the announcement," Assegaf said.

This was denied, however, by TI's Indonesia specialist Emmy Hafild, who said the report's release "was just a good coincidence."

The report accused Suharto, who was deposed in 1998, of embezzling between $15 billion and $35 billion.

Former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos was second on the list with $5 billion to $10 billion plundered. The Philippines had another leader on the list at No. 10, Joseph Estrada, who allegedly plundered $78 million to $80 million during his three-year rule. *AP*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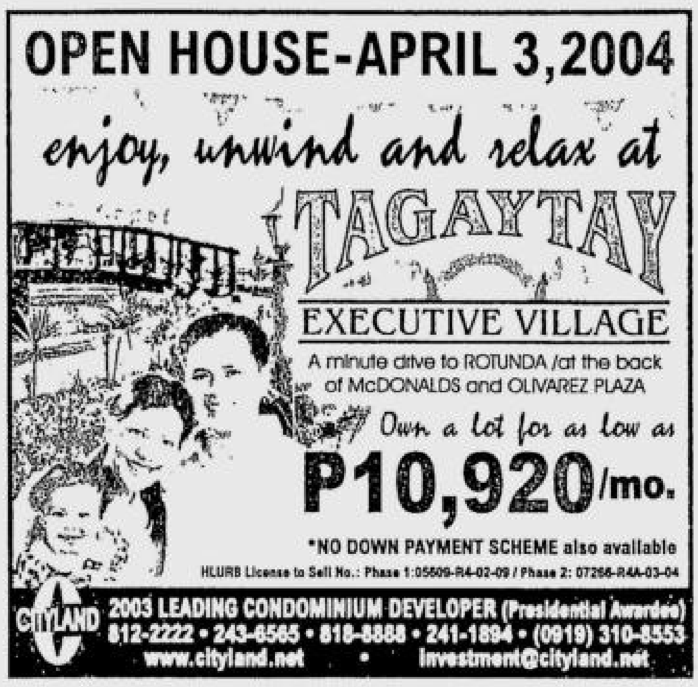
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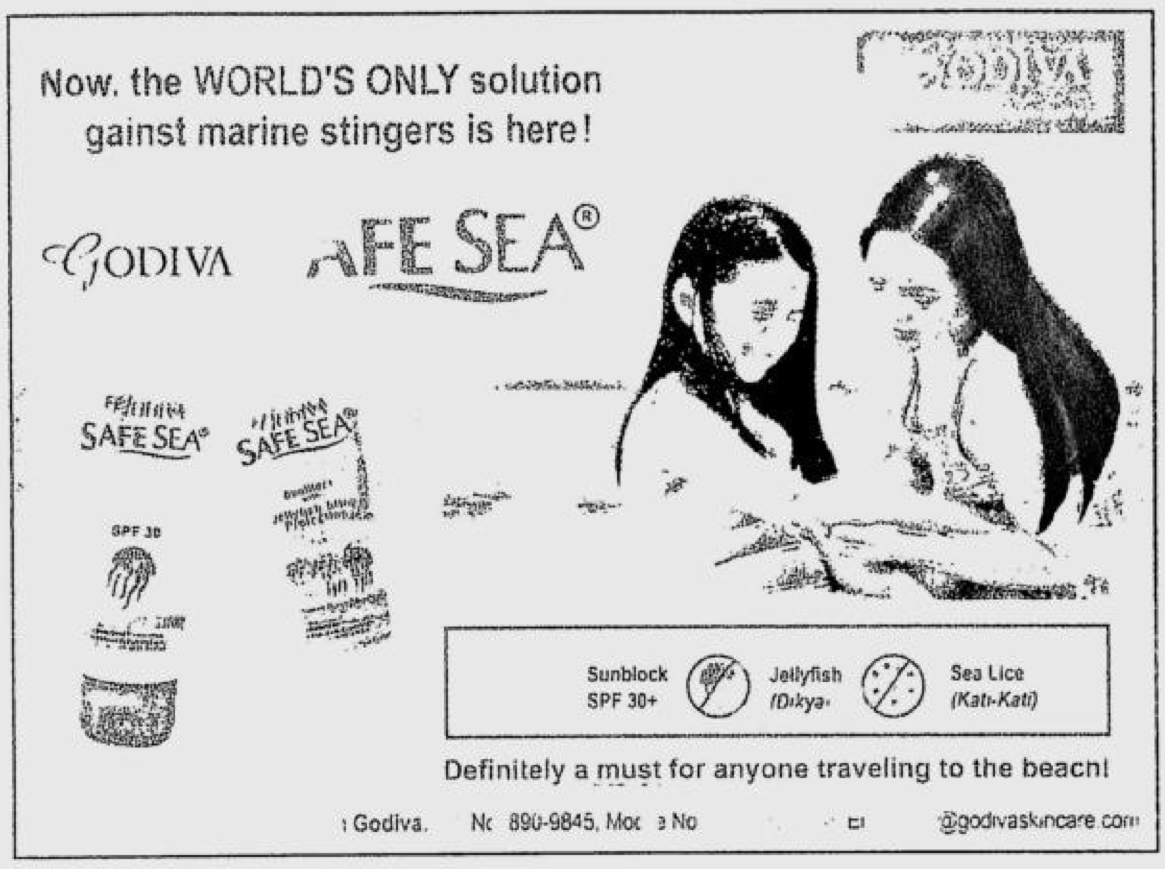
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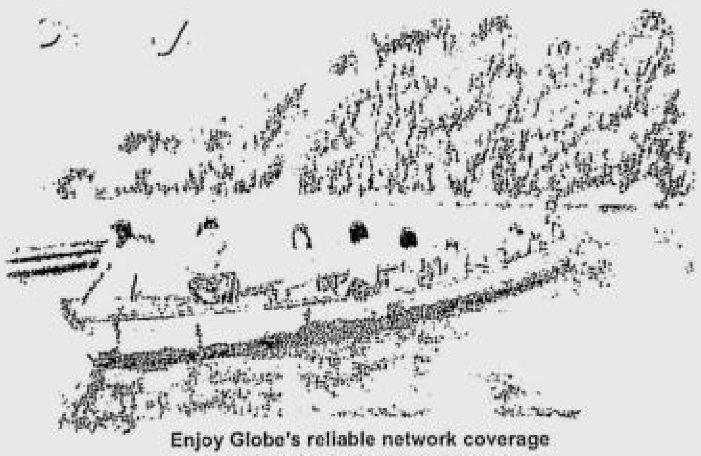

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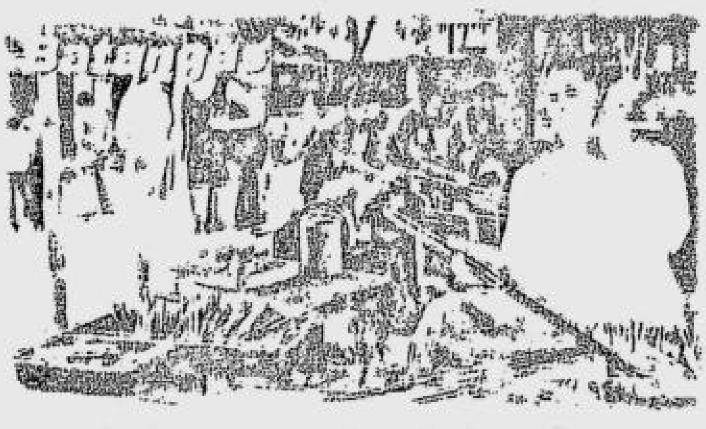

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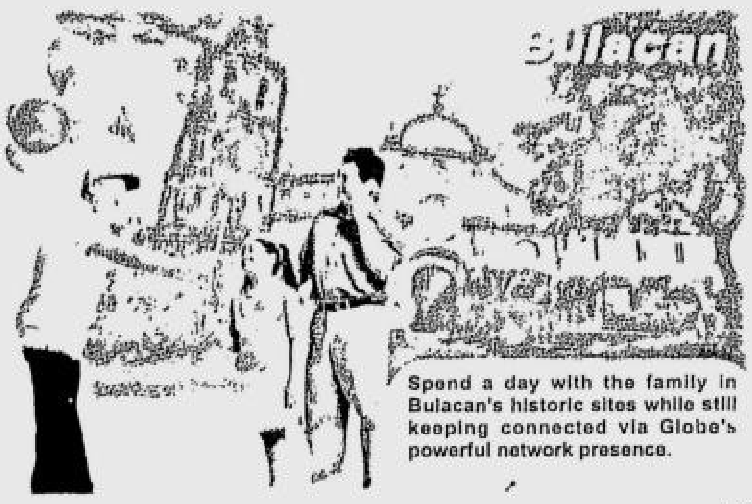

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Negros Oriental

Negros Oriental's youth may now connect to the world around them via Globe's new cellsites.

Bailout illegal, MWSS told

From page A1

that while Amores' legal opinion was considered, the board also had to look at the "broader picture."

He said it was the threat of an economic and financial fall-out that might ensue if the plan did not proceed that made the board members go for the deal.

"Amores' opinion is one-sided. He dealt only with the legal aspect. And we have many lawyers. If you have three lawyers, you'll get three legal opinions," Hondrade said.

In his memo, Amores said that the proposed reorganization would result in a loss of P7.8 billion, "not to mention the huge expense involved in the arbitration proceedings."

"The MWSS will be acquiring 63 percent of the capital stock of an insolvent corporation," he said, noting that Maynilad itself had admitted being insolvent when it appealed for rehabilitation before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

The firm said it had assets worth P16,940,306,299.61 and liabilities of P17,592,041,124.08 as of Oct. 31, 2003, according to Amores.

63 percent of nothing

"Exchanging MWSS' claim for 63 percent equity would be buying 63 percent of nothing," Amores said.

He dismissed arguments that making the Development Bank of the Philippines the trustee of the 63 percent equity would get around the conflict of interest situation.

He said the trustee in a voting trust agreement must vote the shares in accordance with the instructions of the principal, in this case the MWSS.

"In effect, the MWSS would still retain control of its holdings, and that is where the conflict of interest would come in," he added.

Amores said the plan, "while it extends great benefit and advantage to Maynilad" deprives the MWSS of a sizeable amount of money and provides "absolutely no return in the form of future benefits."

Failure to protect gov't interest

"But the more paramount consideration is its effect on the board of trustees and the officers of MWSS who will have to answer to the public and to the court for their failure to protect the interest of the government," he added.

The government has said that it had to agree to a settlement with Maynilad to avoid potential service disruption; immediate and unpredictable increases in the water tariff; takeover costs, including the assumption of debt service by the MWSS and the government; and the difficulty of locating a qualified replacement operator to assume the concession with Maynilad's "unattractive financial circumstances."

Hondrade also pointed out that MWSS's lawyer in the case was the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel, which is supervised by Teehankee.

"[Teehankee] was No. 1 in the bar exams. He himself told us that we would get a favorable decision in any court," Hondrade said.

He also dismissed insinuations that the board members benefited from the approval of the deal.

"Not even five centavos. I have not even been treated to coffee," Hondrade said.

He added that the deal still had to be approved by the Department of Finance and the National Economic Development Authority. If these two agencies reject the deal, it would be scrapped, he said.

Preempting high court?

Government lawyers have submitted the deal to the Quezon City court which is hearing Maynilad's rehabilitation petition, to meet the Tuesday deadline for a settlement.

A source privy to the negotiations between the MWSS and Maynilad said the government could have moved for an extension of the deadline.

"They could have moved for an extension to file an amicable settlement but they are really trying to preempt the Supreme Court," he said.

The same source told the INQUIRER on Friday that the government was bent on pursuing the "bailout" to preempt the Supreme Court from ruling on an MWSS (not Maynilad as earlier reported) petition to allow the government to collect on Maynilad's $120 million performance bond, as doing so might lead to the "collapse" of other Lopez-owned companies.

Cross-default prospect

The source said that Teehankee allegedly warned the MWSS board last year that if the MWSS were to withdraw from the performance bond, which was guaranteed by Benpres and Ondeo, there would be a "cross-default" of the loans of other Lopez-owned companies, that is, the creditor banks would immediately demand payment on these latter loans.

Teehankee said this was completely untrue.

Benpres senior vice president for corporate communications Boo Chanco yesterday branded the story as "speculative."

"It is very irresponsible of the INQUIRER to give such prominence to a story from an unnamed source whose opinion is as good as anybody else's," he said.

Creditor banks seek independent audit

MAYNILAD'S bank creditors which extended bridge loans to the ailing firm have demanded that an independent audit of Maynilad's books be made.

The banks, which include BNP Paribas, Barclays Capital, Citibank N.A., Tokai Bank of Japan and Coface of France, through their lawyers Castillo, Laman, Tan, Pantaleon and San Jose, said such an audit must first be conducted before they would agree to the compromise agreement.

"The regional trial court should appoint an independent auditor to verify the financial data submitted by Maynilad. These need to be verified so that we could go forward," said lead counsel Edilberto Castañeda, adding that Quezon City Judge Reynaldo Daway should appoint an auditor.

Maynilad's lead counsel Ronald Ledesma said, however, that an independent audit would take time and delay the finalization of the compromise agreement.

Daway ruled that the court's appointed receiver, lawyer Rosario Bernaldo of the Bernaldo, Mirador law offices, could do the independent audit.

According to Amendment 2 to the concession agreement contained in the proposed compromise deal, the government would be absorbing some $47 million of maturing bridge loans acquired by Maynilad to finance its capital expenditures in 1999.

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Maynilad bailout plan is win-win, says Palace

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACAÑANG yesterday denied it was obstructing efforts to recover billions of pesos in unpaid concession fees from the Maynilad Water Services and justified the alleged bailout plan for the Lopez-controlled firm as a "win-win" solution for everyone.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said that allegations that the government had been unduly hasty in trying to come to a settlement over Maynilad's indebtedness to the extent of striking a "sweetheart deal" with the Lopez family were "wrong."

"The government has been seeking to collect on the defaulted concession fee payments for the last three years. It's not as if the government has been sleeping on its rights," Bunye wrote in a piece for his "View from the Palace" column in the government-controlled "People's Journal" newspaper.

But then the government realized that it could get tied up in protracted litigation with Maynilad so that by the time the court cases are resolved, it would be too late to call in the firm's performance bond, which expires in June 2004, Bunye said.

History of conflict

Bunye's piece, which will appear this week but was released to Palace reporters yesterday, explains the history of the conflict between the state-run Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and Maynilad, the joint venture between the Lopez Group's Benpres Holdings and the French-based Ondeo Phil., which won a 25-year concession to provide water for the western half of Metro Manila during the wholesale privatization of water services in 1997.

When Maynilad took over the concession, the MWSS had outstanding obligations of P13.9 billion, requiring an estimated P2.3 billion a year to service.

As part of the privatization agreement, Maynilad agreed to pay the MWSS yearly concession fees equivalent to P2.3 billion, Bunye explained.

As a form of security that it would be able to pay the concession fees, Maynilad put up a performance bond of $120 million (P6.6 billion).

"Maynilad, however, started to experience operational and financial problems soon after. [It] suffered huge systems losses due to poorly maintained pipes and also to pilferage. Maynilad's woes were compounded by foreign currency exchange fluctuations. To rehabilitate the water mains, Maynilad borrowed in dollars at the then prevailing rate of P39 to $1," Bunye said.

In March 2001, Maynilad defaulted for the first time on its concession fee obligations.

Since that time, Maynilad's unpaid obligations to the MWSS have grown to about P7.1 billion.

Bunye said the MWSS had been trying since 2001 to collect the unpaid fees by drawing on the performance bond.

However, Maynilad was able to ward off the MWSS' attempts to collect through court maneuvers, the latest of which is pending before the Supreme Court.

Last year, a Paris-based international arbitration panel ordered Maynilad to pay the government what it owed in concession fees.

Petition for debt relief

In November 2003, Maynilad filed a petition for debt relief and receivership before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

"In the meantime, the situation had become critical, threatening to disrupt the delivery of water services to the western concession area. Maintenance of the facilities was in danger of neglect. More than 3,000 employees were in danger of being dislocated," Bunye said.

Clearly, the government had to act decisively and expeditiously, he said.

"It is against this backdrop that [the] MWSS proposed to take over once more the operations of Maynilad. The move is based not just on the provisions of the concession agreement but also on Article 12, Section 17 of the Constitution allowing the government under certain circumstances to take over public utilities," Bunye said.

He said the terms and conditions of the proposed takeover by government were broached by the international arbitration panel and are still subject to approval by the Quezon City court and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Dan who? Never heard . . .

From page A1

Philippines: "That is not true. Whoever is spreading that is making black propaganda."

The President issued a brief statement that did not answer the questions raised by Ho's visit.

"I have fought for governance based on morality and upright conduct," she said. "The records of Pagcor pertaining to agreements and contracts in the operation of casinos are public documents. The opposition is welcome to look into these records to verify the facts. The truth is there for all to see."

Potentially embarrassing

Saludo also could not say whether Ms Macapagal had authorized Roleda to meet Ho at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport.

"It would not be strange if a presidential adviser on foreign investments meets with a potential investor, unless there's something illegal [about it]," Saludo said in a phone interview.

But given Ho's background, Saludo said, it would appear strange that a presidential adviser would welcome and escort him in the middle of Ms Macapagal's election campaign.

"Just looking at it from a media and political perspective, I think it's potentially embarrassing [for the administration] to have something to do with [Ho], especially at this time," Saludo said, stressing that this was his personal opinion.

He said that while Ho might have a "straightforward" business proposal, this was bound to be controversial because of the nature of Ho's business and his alleged involvement in previous scandals in the Estrada administration, like that concerning BW Resources.

"It would be hard to believe that this was cleared with the President because of the political repercussions," Saludo said.

But he admitted that Ho would not come over "just to see the sights."

Saludo said it was incumbent upon Roleda to explain.

"Since he was photographed and seen escorting Mr. Ho, it may be good for him to explain [why]. There may be a good explanation for this," Saludo said.

Initially, however, Saludo asked whether the INQUIRER was sure that the man photographed welcoming Ho was Roleda and a presidential adviser.

"I'm afraid I don't know him. I have never seen him in a Cabinet meeting, and I have never issued any memorandum or communication addressed to him," said Saludo, who serves as the Cabinet secretary. "But maybe he is who he says he is."

Presidential advisers report directly to Ms Macapagal although they are functionally under Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, Saludo said.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Romulo, who was said to be in a "closed-door meeting" yesterday afternoon.

'In good faith'

Ho, who brought in a floating casino-restaurant during President Joseph Estrada's term but never got to inaugurate it, was conferred an honorary doctorate in humanities degree by the Angeles University Foundation during his visit.

In a statement issued yesterday, the AUF described the casino king as "involved in other philanthropic, civic and service-oriented undertakings."

It said that it conferred the degree on Ho "in good faith," that the AUF board unanimously approved the decision on March 1, and that the Commission on Higher Education was informed of the decision.

The AUF was reacting to Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz's move to return the same honorary degree that the university conferred on him in the mid-1990s.

Cruz, former president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and a staunch critic of illegal gambling, was member and chair of the AUF board of trustees from 1977 to 1988. He said Friday that he was returning the degree in protest against being included in the same roster as Ho.

"We are saddened by the adverse reaction of Archbishop Cruz," read the statement sent to the INQUIRER in Angeles City by the office of AUF vice chair Emmanuel Angeles, Ms Macapagal's appointee to the Clark Development Corp.

"The recognition accorded Dr. Stanley Ho is purely based on his achievements and contribution to education, research and global business," the statement said.

This, it noted, was "aside from the hospitality and industry that he's known for."

The AUF's current chair is Pampanga Archbishop Paciano Aniceto. The trustees include Diosdado Macapagal Jr., Ms Macapagal's brother.

No second thoughts

Ms Macapagal's election rivals weighed in on the controversy.

In Baguio City, Lacson told reporters: "The Filipino lawyer of Stanley Ho has been appointed presidential adviser on foreign investments. If that indicates something, then I'll just let you read into it. *With reports from Norman Bordadora in Baguio; Michael Lim Ubac in Negros Oriental*

Ex-Comelec media chief: It's GMA ads

From page A1

mation department was due to his statements on the possible disqualification of President Macapagal as a presidential candidate in the May 10 polls if charges that she had transgressed election laws were proved.

Although obviously shocked by his transfer to Leyte, the former law teacher said it might prove to be "a blessing in disguise" because the poll body's credibility was low and that it was beset with big problems, such as the cancelled Mega Pacific deal involving use of automated counting machines in the May elections.

"I do not know what the future will bring... God always works it out," he said.

Rafanan first found himself at the center of controversy early this month when he said that political posters of Ms Macapagal over a road project could be torn down if it was established that their display violated election campaign laws.

He also said in television interviews that if the charges against the President were true, they could be grounds for her disqualification as a candidate.

President Macapagal is facing seven disqualification cases for alleged violation of election laws, ranging from excessive use of broadcast time for her election ads to the use of road users' tax and distribution of Philippine Health Insurance Corp. cards allegedly for her election campaign.

Rafanan said he had no proof to indicate that Malacañang was behind his transfer to the Visayas.

Rafanan said Abalos summoned him on March 15 during a meeting of commissioners and senior staff and asked him to explain the statements he had been making to media.

"I answered him: 'Sir, I am just doing my duty as information director. I tell the people about the content of the law'," Rafanan said.

Rafanan said he further told Abalos that his statements were "not a pronouncement of guilt. It is just a pronouncement of what the law is."

But the Comelec chair apparently was not satisfied.

On March 18, three days after the meeting, a surprised Rafanan received a resolution transferring him to region 8, where he was "needed more," according to newly appointed commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

He said he was shocked to hear Garcillano telling him that "the education and information (department) is not important."

Rafanan dismissed suggestions from family and friends to resign from the Comelec, saying it was not his style to quit in the face of what he called injustice.

"Why should I resign? What is my fault? Those who are doing harm to the Comelec should resign. Those who are not doing their jobs should resign. Those who are destroying the credibility of the Commission should resign. But I will remain," he stressed.

Rafanan is set to go to Tacloban as regional director of eastern Visayas on March 31. But he said he wanted to attend the graduation and recognition rites of his two children first before parting with them.

His wife and six kids, whom he left behind in Vigan, Ilocos Sur when he was appointed information director, relocated to a house in Cainta in June last year.

Mental patients in haven for street kids stirs worries

From page A1

But lately, the government-run facility is being forced to accept a growing number of homeless mental patients, causing alarm among its staff and regular wards.

The JFC is currently looking after 47 male and 32 female wards who showed "psychotic tendencies" when they were picked up from the streets and yet are classified as "outpatients" by the National Center for Mental Health, according to the center's administrator.

Social workers are in a dilemma because the presence of the mental patients is proving to be "traumatic" to the center's legitimate clients, especially children, who are supposed to have a quiet stay at Fabella, officer in charge Helen Lontok said.

Lontok said her staff members are "concerned because we're not supposed to be an extension" of the mental hospital.

Fabella and the NCMH are practically neighbors in the government-owned Welfareville Compound.

Run by the social welfare department, the JFC is meant to serve as a transient home for wandering indigents. It has a 450-bed capacity.

"I am Gloria"

In the few months that they stay there, wards enjoy free meals and lodging, and are given psycho-social counseling, while social workers facilitate their return home or refer them to more specialized welfare agencies or NGOs.

"Children and mothers with babies, in particular, are being traumatized," Lontok told the INQUIRER on Wednesday. "There are nights when they are roused from sleep by somebody making a loud "speech" in the quadrangle, declaring himself "Gloria" or "Clinton."

Now the children are scared to play outdoors, Lontok said.

At other times, daycare activities or counseling seminars for adults are disrupted by mental patients who suddenly peek into classroom windows.

Numbers growing

Lontok said the number of mentally unstable wards ending up at the center began to surge in the past month as local governments, in coordination with the Metro Manila Development Authority, stepped up their "rescue operation" for vagrants.

When the center referred new arrivals who exhibited abnormal behavior to the NCMH, many of them were either refused admission or discharged after two to three days as "outpatients" who only required medication, Lontok said.

Since Fabella has no enclosed section for mental outpatients and cannot immediately locate their families, staff members are left without any choice but to keep a close watch on them as they mingle with the regular wards.

Screams

"The more we confine them or restrict their movements, the more they scream or turn violent, but they are already disturbing our daily activities," Lontok said.

Reached for comment, NCMH chief Dr. Bernardino Vicente confirmed that many outpatients from his institution had been winding up at Fabella.

Vicente maintained that, as a matter of policy, the hospital did not automatically admit all patients brought to it.

Vicente cited "overcrowding" and the hospital's meager budget as main reasons why the NCMH—now bursting with some 3,000 patients—"cannot take them all in."

"The most preferred treatment (of mental cases) is still outside the hospital. Hospitalization should always be the last resort," he said, maintaining that persons who are merely "mentally retarded" and not psychotic are best treated in a home environment.

"They (Fabella) should also understand our predicament," Vicente said. "At only P80 per patient per day, we need to be efficient in spending our funds."

The NCMH receives one of the lowest annual budgets among state-run national hospitals, he said.

He added that the uncertain future of NCMH due to revived efforts by the government to sell the Welfareville property also had discouraged plans to improve the hospital's serving capacity.

Safe at night?

Lontok said that, fortunately, there had been no untoward incident among the wards at Fabella. But some staff members have suffered scratches (*kalmot*) trying to control the behavior of some mental patients.

At night, a safe distance is kept between the two wards. The regulars sleep inside their quarters while the mental patients occupy cots lining the corridors.

"One proposed remedy is to transfer the female patients to the sanctuary center for recovering NCMH patients, which is also in Welfareville.

"We're just trying our best to cope at the moment," Lontok said.

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Rod Reyes: Snake pit ...

From page A1

bureau chief of Poe's Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, yesterday admitted to reporters in an informal talk at the Waterfront Hotel that he had been a victim of back-stabbing within the camp and that even his access to the top man had earlier been blocked.

Asked what the other insiders might have against him, the mild-mannered Reyes said: "I really don't know.

"But you know, I have been in the corridors of power twice, and there is the usual intrigue."

Reyes, a veteran newsman, had stints as press secretary during the terms of Presidents Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada.

He disclosed that the intrigue was "much more" in Malacañang. "And even before [getting there], in the campaign period, you can expect some sniping. Even before they get to the corridors of power, there is already back-stabbing," he added.

But Reyes said he had no more problem getting to Poe: "*Wala na*. That was resolved."

Asked if he had a message to the intriguers in the Poe camp, he said: "OK *lang*. I don't have any problem with that."

Reyes did not identify the persons supposedly making life difficult for him. But he noted that the Estrada campaign had been much more organized because its handlers were "seasoned" in the game.

Asked if he was being provided sufficient financial resources to work with, he said: "We are operating on a budget that I think is very small compared to the other camps. But we have to live with the budget they give us."

Standard procedure

Much of Reyes' previous task of speaking for Poe has been taken over by Sorsogon Rep. Francis Escudero whose father, Salvador, is in the KNP senatorial ticket.

Reyes said Escudero had brought in "some people [media handlers] with him," but pointed out that this was standard procedure.

He said he had no problem with Escudero, former spokesperson of the Nationalist People's Coalition of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.

Reyes also said he had been trying to convince Poe to be more available to the media. "I think our gamble is to solve the problem of [media] access," he said.

All told, Reyes described these problems as "little" ones.

"The thing is," he told reporters, "I hope we are not falling flat on our faces, at least as far as taking care of you people [is concerned]."

'Trapos'

According to the spokesperson of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, the other opposition presidential candidate, traditional politicians were responsible for the fragmented opposition.

But Angelito Banayo, once a member of the Estrada Cabinet, did not name names.

"The opposition must unite, but for what must we unite? For an old set of *trapos*? Or do we unite to make sure we bring in a new set of politicians?" Banayo said at a news conference in Tuguegarao City.

"If it's for the same old discredited traditional politicians riding on the back of a popular candidate, are we serving the larger interests of the nation?" he said.

Banayo said these "trapos" had contributed to the government corruption that resulted in the recent listing of former Presidents Estrada and Ferdinand Marcos among the most corrupt world leaders.

He said voters would be better off with the two factions of the opposition uniting in the national interest and rallying behind a candidate with experience and competence.

"Let's sacrifice for the larger national interest and not put back in power the trapos who had contributed to the destruction of our politics," he said. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

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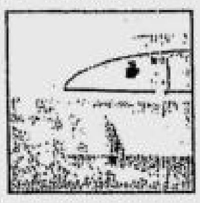

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Massive protests hit Taiwan

TAIPEI—In Taiwan's biggest-ever protest, 300,000 supporters of defeated presidential challenger Lien Chan massed in Taipei on Saturday to dispute his loss as China said it would not tolerate turmoil on the island.

A sea of yellow raincoats filled the square and streets around the office of President Chen Shui-bian as demonstrators defied rain to demand a recount for last Saturday's poll, which Chen won by just 30,000 votes out of more than 13 million cast.

Dressed in black in a demonstration of mourning and standing in front of a huge sign reading "Democracy is Dead," Lien told the crowd he had counted more than 1,000 irregularities in the island's third ever direct presidential vote.

"Today so many people gather here to demand a fair election. This is the most basic value of democracy," said Lien, leader of the Nationalist Party who also lost to Chen in 2000.

"Our common demands are very simple: immediate recount. I want to ask Mr. Chen Shui-bian: what are you afraid of? Stand up!"

"Stand up! Stand up!" the huge crowd shouted back.

The Nationalist Party leader called for an independent inquiry into an election-eve assassination attempt that lightly wounded Chen and created a significant sympathy vote.

"We must be prepared for a long battle," Lien said. "We will not end our struggle until our goal is achieved. We must let the world see the power of the people."

The rivalry between Chen and Lien and the extent of support for the challenger threaten a prolonged crisis that could paralyze policy-making in one of Asia's most vibrant economies.

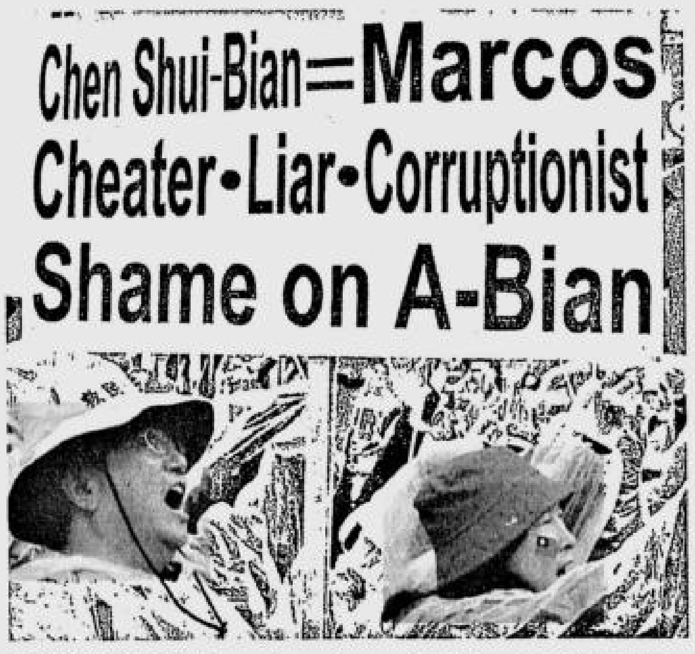
Chen does not have a majority in parliament, making it difficult for his policies to be passed into law.

Beijing said it would not sit idly by if the protests spiralled out of control. The Chinese government is anxious to prevent pro-independence activists who back Chen's policy of greater sovereignty from using the turmoil to promote their cause.

"Say no to Bulletgate scandal," read one placard held up by the crowd. "Say no to the dirty election," read another raised near a huge plaster replica of the Statue of Liberty.

Lien urged the crowd to go home, but warned Chen that his supporters would return in force to launch a new protest in early April if their demands over the disputed election were not met. He said he would persist until the president's May 20 inauguration.

An extra 5,000 police were deployed to maintain order and ranks of helmeted officers in full riot gear stood in rows behind barbed-wire barricades in front of the presidential palace. *Reuters*



A PROTESTER displays a placard comparing Taiwan's president to former dictator Ferdinand Marcos during a rally in Taipei. AFP

Pakistan derides tape, vows to step up hunt vs al-Qaida

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan scornfully dismissed a taped message, apparently from Osama bin Laden's deputy, calling for the overthrow of the government, and vowed on Friday to step up the hunt for al-Qaida fighters.

A CIA official in the United States said the voice on the tape was "likely" that of Ayman al-Zawahri, a man Pakistan hinted its troops had trapped in a border region just days ago, although it was unclear when the recording was made.

"Can Zawahri take over?" asked President Pervez Musharraf in an interview with ABC News. "I mean Zawahri is on the run. For heaven's sake just one tape, let's not get excited. Just one tape which, even if he's all alone with Osama, he can make in the mountains. What is the worry? They can never take over."

Pakistan said more soldiers would be sent to semi-autonomous tribal territories bordering Afghanistan to reinforce a battle to flush out al-Qaida fighters and their Pakistani allies.

The 11-day operation sparked a defiant message purportedly by Bin Laden's right-hand man Zawahri, calling on Pakistanis to overthrow Musharraf and describing the Pakistani leader as a "traitor" to Islam working for the United States.

Asked if he thought he would get Zawahri and Bin Laden before they got him, Musharraf told ABC's "This Week with George Stephanopoulos" program: "Well, I can't be 100 percent sure. I mean I am quite loose at my security. *Reuters*

Jordanian eyed as brains in Madrid blasts

MADRID—Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian linked to al-Qaida and suspected of heading a terrorist network in Iraq, is now believed to have been the brains behind the deadly Madrid railway attacks, a French private investigator said on Friday.

Investigator Jean-Charles Brisard said Spanish officials told him some suspects held in the March 11 attacks were in contact with al-Zarqawi as recently as a month or two before the bombings, which killed 190 people and wounded more than 1,800.

"They believe today he was the mastermind," Brisard, who is probing the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, said in a telephone interview from Geneva, Switzerland.

The Spanish interior ministry declined to comment on his assertions. "The investigation is at a critical stage," a ministry official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Late Friday, a Spanish radio station reported that police believe they have located the house where the bombs were built. Investigators found detonators and traces of dynamite inside the house near Alcala de Henares, 30 km northeast of Madrid, radio network Cadena SER reported.

It said the attackers were believed to have used the building to prepare the explosives and stuff them into knapsacks. The investigators found the house a week ago, according to the report.

Brisard's comments came as the probe spread to Germany, a key staging ground for the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

German police raided an apartment in Darmstadt where a Moroccan suspect arrested Wednesday in the Madrid train bombings stayed briefly last year. The 28-year-old man is suspected of membership in a foreign terrorist organization, a prosecutor said.

But German officials said they had no evidence that the Madrid attacks were planned or prepared in Germany.

Morocco, the native country of at least nine of the suspects, reported its first arrests in the case, although a senior official said they had not yielded significant information.

In Spain, authorities announced another arrest Friday, and a judge charged a 12th suspect in the case.

Spanish investigators believe six or seven of the 18 people now in custody in Spain helped plan the Madrid attacks and that al-Zarqawi was behind the plot, Brisard said.

In just two weeks, Spanish police say they have put together most of the pieces of the puzzle behind the bombings, according to Brisard, who is not a part of the investigation. "The picture is almost complete now," Brisard said.

"They are basically telling me that several of these people are talking a lot," Brisard said, referring to suspects he did not name.

Brisard is working for lawyers for relatives of Sept. 11 victims and has a copy of a dossier prepared by Spanish Judge Baltasar Garzon, who is investigating an alleged al-Qaida cell in Spain. Garzon says the cell's alleged leader and other members helped prepare the Sept. 11 attacks. *AP*

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Auto Body Electrical P3,600/48 hours	9:00-12:00 2:00-5:00 5:30-8:30	Mon to Fri Mon to Fri Mon to Fri	Apr19-May10 Apr19-May10 Apr19-May10
Gas Engine Mechanic P4,200/60 hours	9:00-12:00 5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	Mon to Fri Mon to Fri Saturday	Apr19-May14 Apr19-May14 Jun05-Jul31
Diesel Engine Mechanic P4,200/60 hours	2:00-5:00 5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	Mon to Fri Mon to Fri Saturday	Apr19-May14 Apr19-May14 Jun05-Jul31
Basic Car Maintenance P2,800/30 hours	2:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	Mon to Fri Saturday	Apr19-Apr30 Jun05-Jul03
Automatic Transmission Mechanic P4,200/60 hours	9:00-12:00	Mon to Fri	Apr19-May14
Electronic Fuel Injection Servicing P4,200/48 hours	2:00-5:00	Mon to Fri	Apr19-May10
Refrigeration and Aircon Servicing P4,500/60 hours	9:00-12:00 5:00-9:00 8:00-5:00	Mon to Fri Mon to Fri Saturday	Apr19-May14 Apr19-May14 Jun05-Jul31

INSTRUMENTATION

[illegible] Industrial Controls P4,200/42 hours	5:30-8:30	Mon to Fri	Apr19-May07
Electro Pneumatics P4,200/42 hours	5:30-8:30 8:00-4:00	Mon to Fri Sunday	May10-May28 Apr18-May23
Basic PLC P4,200/42 hours	5:30-8:30 5:30-8:30 8:00-4:00	Mon to Fri Mon to Fri Saturday	Apr19-May07 May10-May28 Apr17-May22
Calibration for Process Instrumentation P4,200/36 hours	5:30-8:30 9:00-4:00	Mon to Fri Saturday	Apr19-May07 Apr17-May22
Industrial Process Control P4,200/36 hours	5:30-8:30	Mon to Fri	May10-May28
Process Automation Course P7,500/72 hours	5:30-8:30	Mon to Fri	Apr19-May28
Machine Automation Course P15,900/126 hours	5:30-8:30	Mon to Fri	Apr19-Jun18

APPLIED ARTS & SCIENCES

[illegible] Communication Skills P3,000/21 hours	9:00-5:00	Saturday	Apr17-May08
Creating Preventive Maintenance Systems P3,000/21 hours	9:00-5:00	Saturday	Apr17-May08
Customer Service P3,000/21 hours	9:00-5:00	Saturday	Apr17-May08
Developing Training Evaluations P3,000/21 hours	9:00-5:00	Saturday	Apr24-May15
Change Management P5,000/21 hours	9:00-5:00	Saturday	Apr17-May08
Human Resource Development P5,000/21 hours	9:00-5:00	Saturday	Apr17-May08
Organization Development P5,000.00/21 hours	9:00-5:00	Saturday	Apr17-May08
Technology Management [illegible]/21 hours	9:00-5:00	Saturday	Apr17-May08

MECHANICAL

Lathe Machine Operation P7,000/40 hours	5:00-9:00 8:00-5:00	MTThF Saturday	Apr15-May04 Apr24-May29
Milling Machine Operation P7,000/40 hours	5:00-9:00 8:00-5:00	MTThF Saturday	Apr15-May04 Apr24-May29
Basic CAD/CAM (Mastercam) P4,500/40 hours	5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	Mon to Fri Saturday	Apr15-May05 Apr24-May29
Gas Welding P5,500/40 hours	5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	Mon to Fri Saturday	Apr19-May05 Apr24-May29
CNC Milling Programming P4,500/45 hours	5:30-8:30 [illegible]	Mon to Fri Saturday	Apr15-May05 Apr24-May29

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Office 2000 Package Win98/Word/Excel/Powerpoint P6,000/48 hours	1:30-4:30 1:30-4:30 6:00-9:00 6:00-9:00 8:00-5:00	Mon to Thu Mon to Thu Mon to Fri Mon to Fri Saturday	Apr19-May17 May24-June17 Apr19-May10 May17-June07 Apr17-May29
Program Logic Formulation P5,000/30 hours	1:30-4:30 6:00-9:00 8:00-5:00 3:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	Mon to Thu Mon to Thu Friday Saturday Sunday	Apr12-Apr27 May03-May18 Apr16-May07 Apr17-May22 Apr18-May23
Introduction to Oracle 9i SQL P10,000/60 hours	5:30-8:30 8:00-12:00 8:00-3:00	MTThF Mon to Thu Fri-Sat	Mar29-Apr13 May03-May26 May07-June05
Microsoft Access P 5,500/36 hours	1:00-5:00 5:30-8:30 5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	MTThF Mon to Fri Mon to Fri Saturday	Apr19-May03 Mar29-Apr15 Apr19-May04 Mar27-May08
Macromedia Flash ActionScript (Adv. Flash) P 6,000 /24 hours	9:00-4:00	Mon to Thu	May03-May06
Dev. Web Animations using Flash P5,500 /24 hours	9:00-4:00 8:00-3:00	Mon to Thu Saturday	Apr19-Apr22 Apr24-May22
Web Page Designing using DreamWeaver P6,000/30 hours	9:00-4:00 3:30-8:30 6:00-9:00 6:00-9:00 1:30-4:30	Mon to Fri Saturday Mon to Thu Mon to Thu Mon to Thu	Apr26-Apr30 Apr24-Jun05 Apr12-Apr27 May03-May18 May10-May25
Visual Basic .Net Fundamentals P 8,500/45 hours	9:00-12:00 6:00-9:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	Mon to Thu Mon to Thu Saturday Sunday	May10-June02 May10-June02 May08-June12 May09-June13
Programming in C++ P6,500/36 hours	9:00-12:00 6:00-9:00 1:30-4:30 8:00-3:00 9:30-4:30	Mon to Thu Mon to Thu Mon to Thu Saturday Sunday	Apr12-Apr29 Apr12-Apr29 May03-May20 Apr17-May22 Apr18-May23
Object-Oriented Programming in C++ P6,500/36 hours	9:00-12:00	Mon to Thu	May03-May18
JAVA Module 1 Programming P7,500/42 hours	9:00-12:00 6:00-9:00 3:30-8:30 8:00-3:00	Mon to Thu Mon to Thu Saturday Sunday	Apr12-May04 Apr12-May04 May15-Jun26 May09-Jun20
JAVA Module 2 P7,500/42 hours	8:00-3:00 1:30-4:30	Saturday MThF	May22-Jun26 Apr26-May27
Network Technology 7,000/45 hours	9:00-4:00 9:00-5:00 9:00-5:00 9:00-5:00 9:00-4:00 9:00-4:00 6:00-9:00	Mon to Thu Friday Saturday Sunday Mon to Thu Mon to Thu Mon to Thu	Apr19-Apr29 May07-Jun18 Apr24-June05 Apr18-May30 May03-May13 May17-May27 Apr19-May12
Administering Windows Networks P 9,000 / 54 hours	8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	MTThF MTThF MTThF Saturday Sunday	Apr19-Apr29 May03-May13 May17-May27 May08-Jun19 Apr25-Jun06
Administering Windows Networks Infrastructure P9,000 / 49 hours	6:00-9:00	Mon to Fri	Apr19-May10
Administering Active Directory Services P6,000 /36 hours	6:00-9:00	Mon to Fri	May13-May28
Linux System Administration (Linux+) P8,200/45 hours	8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	Saturday Sunday MTThF MTThF MTThF	Apr24-June05 Apr25-May30 Apr19-Apr27 May03-May11 May17-May25
Linux Network Administration P5,500 /30 hours	5:30-8:30 5:30-8:30 5:00-10:00	MTThF MTThF Saturday	Apr19-May04 May10-May25 Apr24-June05
SQUID P2,000 /8 hours	8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	Thursday Thursday Thursday	April 29 May 13 May 27
CISCO 2 P8,000 /70 hours	5:30-9:30	T&Th	Apr06-Jun24
CISCO 3 P8,000 /70 hours	3:30-8:30	Saturday	Apr10-Jul17
CISCO 4 P8,000 /70 hours	8:00-3:00	Saturday	Apr10-Jun05

ELECTRONICS

Basic Electronics P3,500/36 hours	8:00-12:00 8:00-12:00 1:00-5:00 1:00-5:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	Mon to Thu MTTh Mon to Thu Mon to Thu Saturday Saturday	Apr12-Apr26 May03-May17 Apr12-Apr26 May03-May17 Apr17-May22 Apr17-May22
Microcomputer Hardware Fundamentals P4,300/36 hours	8:00-12:00 8:00-12:00 1:00-5:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	Mon to Thu MTTh MTTh Friday Saturday	Apr12-Apr26 May03-May17 May03-May17 Apr16-May21 Apr17-May22
Microcomputer Hardware Servicing P4,500/35 hours	8:30-12:00 1:30-5:00 1:30-5:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	Mon to Thu Mon to Thu Mon to Thu Friday Saturday	Apr12-Apr27 Apr12-Apr27 May03-May18 Apr16-May21 Apr17-May22
Advanced Microcomputer Hardware Servicing P4,500/35 hours	5:30-9:00 8:00-5:00	Mon to Thu Saturday	May03-May18 Apr17-May22
Television and Monitor Servicing P3,500/36 hours	5:30-8:30 5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	Mon to Fri Mon to Fri Saturday	Apr12-Apr27 May03-May18 Apr17-May22
Practical Cellular Phone Servicing P4,600/27 hours	5:30-8:30 5:30-8:30	Mon to Fri Mon to Fri	Apr12-Apr22 May03-May13
Home Video Editing P3,300/15 hours	5:30-8:30	Mon to Thu	Apr19-Apr23

ELECTRICAL

Industrial Electrician P4,500/60 hours	8:30-12:00 1:30-5:00 5:30-9:00 8:00-5:30 8:00-6:00	Mon to Thu Mon to Thu Mon to Thu Saturday Sunday	Apr26-May26 Apr26-May26 Apr26-May26 June19-Aug07 June10-Aug08
Building Wiring Installation & Maintenance P4,500/60 hours	8:30-12:00 5:30-9:00 8:00-5:30	Mon to Thu Mon to Thu Saturday	Apr26-May25 Apr26-May25 June09-Aug07
Advanced Industrial Motor Control P4,500/60 hours	5:30-8:30 8:00-5:30	Mon to Thu Saturday	Apr26-May27 June19-Aug07
Electrical Control Wiring Installer & Troubleshooter P4,500/48 hours	5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	Mon to Thu Saturday	Apr26-May20 May29-June10
Motor & Transformer Rewinding P4,500/60 hours	5:30-9:00 8:00-5:30	Mon to Thu Saturday	Apr26-May25 May29-June24
AUTOCAD 2004 P4,600/72 hours	9:00-12:30 5:30-9:00 1:30-5:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	Mon to Fri Mon to Fri Mon to Fri Saturday Sunday	Apr26-May24 Apr26-May24 Apr26-May24 June09-Aug14 June10-Aug15

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JAS-ANZ

Nobel laureate wants voters to cast blank ballots

LISBON—Portuguese Nobel laureate Jose Saramago's latest novel, a fable about a right-wing government's violent reaction to an election in which 83 percent of the votes cast are blank, went on sale here Thursday with the author predicting the book would spark huge controversy.

"The whole political system is questioned. It would be very difficult for the book not to generate a scandal or not be accused of being provocative," he said in an interview published in newsweekly Visao.

The 81-year-old writer added he hoped "Essay on Lucidity" would inspire disgruntled voters around the world to cast blank votes to show their disappointment instead of just staying away from the ballot box.

"I would like to know how a so-called democratic system would hold up if a majority of people somewhere in Europe decided to cast blank votes," he said.

In the 329-page novel the central government reacts by declaring a state of emergency and building a wall around the capital city while police use lie-detector machines in their hunt for voters who cast blank ballots.

Saramago's Portuguese publishers, Caminho, said the book will have a first print run of 100,000 copies, a record for a Portuguese novel.

First editions of Portuguese books usually total just 5,000 copies but sales of Saramago's works have soared both at home and abroad since he became the first Portuguese author to win a Nobel prize for literature in 1998.

A Spanish-language edition of Saramago's new book will become available in April with an Italian translation expected to hit bookstores later this year. *AFP*

Clarke testimony in 2002 sought to be declassified

WASHINGTON—Top congressional Republicans sought on Friday to declassify the testimony Richard Clarke gave in July 2002 that they said discredits the former White House adviser's criticism of President George W. Bush's response to the terrorism threat.

US Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist questioned whether Clarke had lied to Congress, and said testimony Clarke gave nearly two years ago about the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks should—in a rare move—be made public.

Frist's challenge of Clarke's credibility followed the White House's scathing critique of Bush's former aide, who said in public testimony as well as in a best-selling book that the president failed to properly heed threats of terrorism.

The Tennessee Republican said Clarke's comments before the House and Senate intelligence committees in 2002 conflict with his testimony on Wednesday to a bipartisan commission investigating the Sept. 11 attacks.

"Mr. Clarke has told two entirely different stories under oath," Frist said, charging that Clarke said behind closed doors in 2002 that the administration actively sought to address the threat posed by al-Qaida before the attacks.

Clarke told the panel on Wednesday that the Bush administration in its first eight months in office regarded terrorism as "not an urgent issue"—which the White House has hotly denied.

Said Frist, "It is one thing for Mr. Clarke to dissemble in front of the media... but if he lied under oath to the United States Congress it is a far, far more serious matter." *Reuters*

Bush launches new round of ME diplomacy

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush will meet next month with the leaders of Israel, Egypt and Jordan, the White House announced on Friday, launching a new round of Middle East diplomacy to lay the groundwork for Israel's withdrawal of settlements from the Gaza Strip.

The White House said it sees the withdrawal as a "positive" and potentially "historic" interim step while the US-backed "road map" Middle East peace initiative remains stalled. US and Israeli officials have been ironing out the details and are seeking cooperation from Egypt, Jordan and others.

US officials said next month's meetings marked a new push by the administration to calm rising tensions in the region after the assassination of Hamas leader Ahmed Yassin by Israeli forces. As part of that effort, the White House has decided to delay, possibly until mid-April, new US economic sanctions against Syria for backing anti-Israel militants, sources said.

Bush will meet with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, one of Washington's closest allies in the Arab world, at the president's ranch in Crawford, Texas, on April 12.

He will meet with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on April 14, and lend support to his plan to withdraw settlements in the Gaza Strip, people involved in the deliberations said.

US and Israeli officials want to make sure the withdrawal does not allow Hamas to cement its grip over Palestinian affairs in Gaza. Egypt has offered to secure its side of the border with Gaza, a move Israel sees as crucial to staunching the flow of weapons to Hamas.

At their meeting, Bush and Sharon are expected to "finalize understandings" on the settlements and security arrangements in Gaza, one source said.

Bush will then meet with Jordan's King Abdullah on April 21, the White House said.

An Israeli diplomat in Washington said the goal of Bush's talks with the three leaders was to forge a "consensus behind Sharon's proposal for unilateral disengagement" from the Palestinians, including Israel's full withdrawal from Gaza.

"This is not going to be easy, but it's doable," the diplomat said. *Reuters*

French lawyer says he's going to defend Saddam Hussein

PARIS—A French lawyer with a reputation for defending terrorists and a Nazi leader said Saturday he has been asked to defend Saddam Hussein.

Jacques Verges told France-Inter radio he had received a letter from Saddam's family confirming his role as attorney for the former Iraqi leader.

"I was ready to defend him and then I received a letter from his nephew," Verges said, and read aloud a portion of the correspondence.

The letter read: "In my capacity as nephew of President Saddam Hussein, I commission you officially by this letter to assure the defense of my uncle." Verges did not name the person who sent the letter.

United States officials have said they plan to bring Saddam to trial for alleged crimes against the Iraqi people, but the location of any trial and its format and date have yet to be decided.

Saddam is being held by US forces at an undisclosed location.

Verges said he feared for Saddam's safety.

"My concern is not the trial," the lawyer said. "My concern is they'll kill him before."

Verges has defended Venezuelan terrorist Carlos the Jackal, confessed serial killer Charles Sobhraj and the Nazi Gestapo chief Klaus Barbie. *AP*

NOTICE TO QUEZON CITY TAXPAYERS

Sangguniang Bayan SB Lungsod Quezon

AVAIL OF THE 20% TAX DISCOUNT FOR ANNUAL PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY IF PAID ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 2004.

(UNDER ORDINANCE NO.1081 INTRODUCED BY COUNCILOR ALMA F. MONTILLA AND VICTOR V. FERRER, Jr.)

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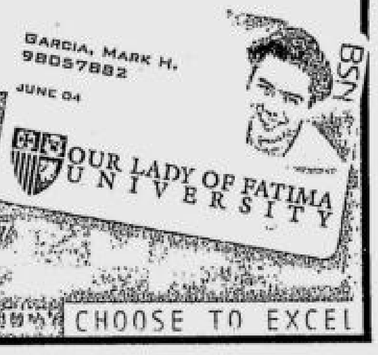

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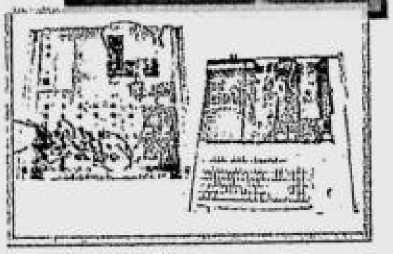
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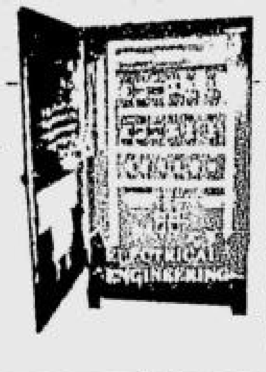
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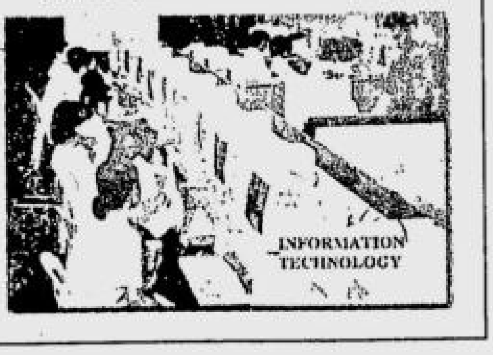
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OPINION

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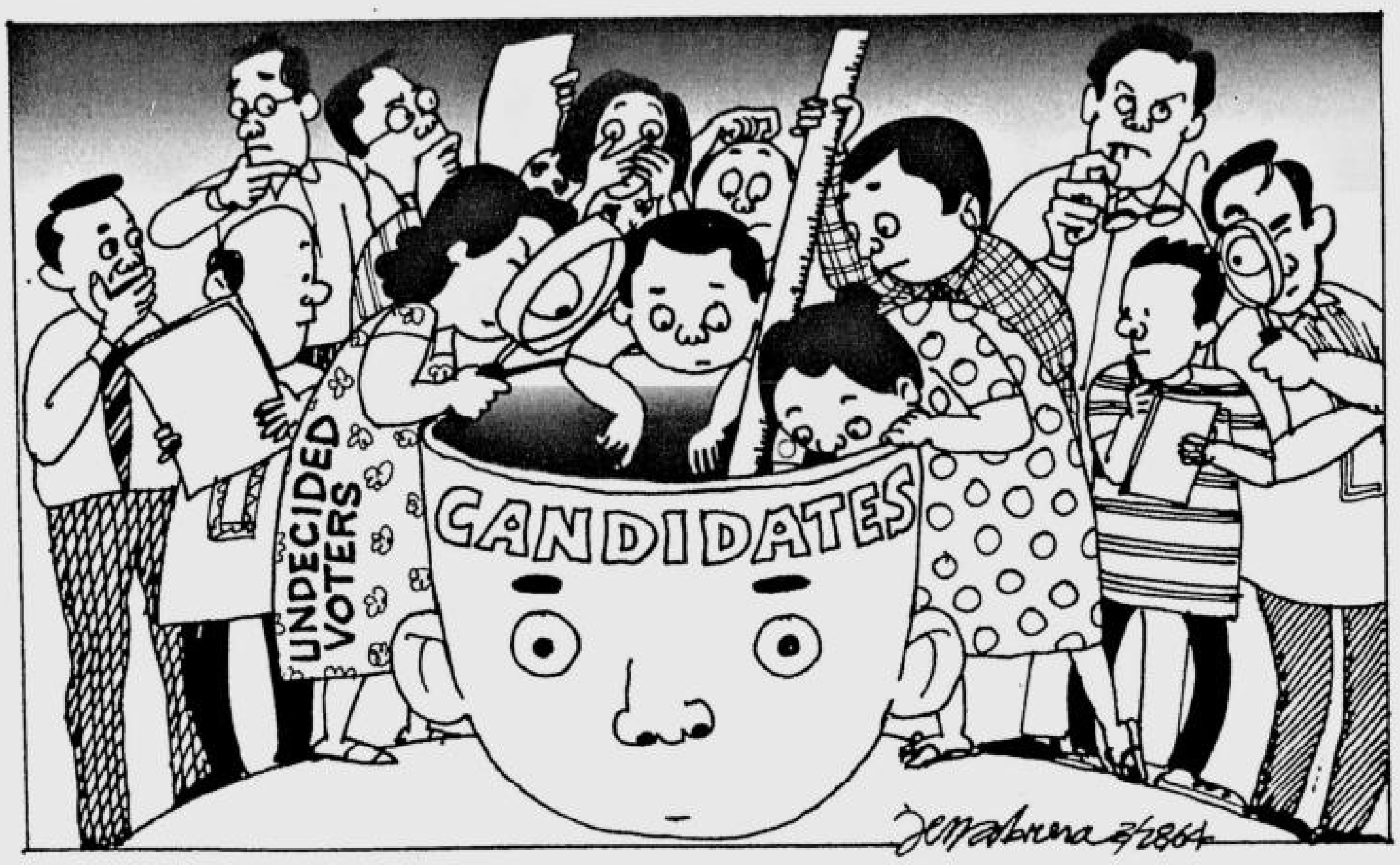

Discernment

EDITORIAL

CHANCES are, the thinking voter has yet to decide on the 12 candidates who deserve their votes for senator. Indeed, it is probable that many erstwhile conscientious voters will decide on their "magic 12" at the last minute, in the voting booth. The result will be to surrender the field to the unthinking many who don't bother to scrutinize candidates but instead, vote straight tickets merely on the say-so of their patrons and ward leaders. Once again, candidates who have name recall will have a formidable advantage when it comes to snap decisions made at the polls, or the logistical advantage of well-oiled parties and coalitions that spend for sample ballots.

As the national campaign enters the home stretch month of April, voters everywhere must begin devoting time and concentration to their senatorial choices. For those who put faith in parties, the combined national and local slates of their parties deserve their full support, since parties need working majorities to be able to get legislation and administration moving. For those who have a more critical and discerning attitude, choices for the Senate are even more crucial for several reasons.

The first is that every senator is a potential president. Any candidate elevated to the Senate becomes susceptible to presidential ambitions. Therefore, the voter must consider if the candidate deserves such a chance, and access to the vast resources available to senators.

The second is that the foreign policy of the country will be, from time to time, at the mercy of a Senate whose membership can affect our nation's foreign policy directly. All treaties are subject to the Senate's ratification or rejection. Large numbers of presidential appointments are subject to the Commission on Appointment's scrutiny, and senators have traditionally been very zealous (for good or ill) about their confirmatory role. A non-nationalistic president can be stymied by a nationalist Senate, while a nationalist president can be bogged down by a Senate with contrary views. The voter, at the very least, must consider if their senatorial candidates have any foreign policy positions, at all.

The third is that the future, or lack of it, of charter change will be determined by the composition of the 13th Congress' Senate. The major parties all have a position, either pro or con, concerning charter change. The presidential candidates have their own positions, too. So which of the senatorial candidates, the voter must ask, has a position closest to that held by the voter?

The fourth is the senatorial candidate's position on the pork barrel, and by extension, the candidate's position on how scarce national resources should be allocated for the public good. A candidate aspiring for a senatorial position is best understood by studying that candidate's reactions to simple questions, such as whether he will spend or return his pork barrel funds. Either the candidate will refuse such funds, and push for substantive changes in the national budget to deprive legislators of corruption-friendly patronage, or he will spend his pork barrel, in which case it's important to ask whether he will do so transparently, or in an opaque manner guaranteed to give rise to suspicions of wrongdoing. Either way, getting an answer before election day helps an informed choice on May 10.

The fifth is the integrity, or absence of it, of the individual senatorial candidate. Is the candidate known for having political will? Is the candidate known for frequently shifting parties and perpetually changing alliances? Does the candidate have a track record of ability in any field of human endeavor and, if so, by the standards of that field, known for fair dealings with people, the responsible use of funds, and the avoidance of conflicts of interest? The question of integrity is crucial to determining if a senator's vote will be up for sale to the highest bidder, or whether the senator can be trusted to behave independently, and rationally, in the Senate.

On the whole, the Senate has been populated with forgettable politicians. Some, over the years, have gained notoriety, whether of the kind that is bad, or good. At the very least, the country needs senators who will do no harm, and better yet, senators who will do some good.

Illegal posters and streamers

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

WITH THE CAMPAIGN period for candidates for the House of Representatives and local offices already begun on March 25 (45 days before the elections on May 10), Metro Manila will be further defaced again with the usual illegal posters and streamers.

The candidates for President, Vice President and party-list organizations have already started their uglification campaign in brash defiance of the election laws. Things will become worse when the other candidates get into the act with their own brand of unlawful postering.

The problem is especially serious in Metro Manila which is reduced to a skid row during the campaign period and many months afterwards. It is hardly felt in other areas of the country, like Cebu and Davao, where the candidates are more law-abiding. If they can observe the law in those places, why not also in Metro Manila?

I was in California during one election period and hardly noticed the campaign posters. There were small inconspicuous tinplates announcing "Brown for District Attorney" and "Green for Mayor," and I did not see any streamers. In Britain, there were big posters that simply said "Go Tory" or "Vote Labor" with the candidate's picture as background and nothing more. The person in the picture was not even identified.

In 1998, I found particularly pretentious that poster of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo holding a rose like a scepter. She was running for vice president then and I could not see the point of the flower in her hand. She probably hoped she looked like Nora Aunor and would get the support of the actress' fans.

Under the Omnibus Election Code, posters must not be more than 3 by 2 feet and can be pasted in a common poster area designated by the Commission on Elections. Streamers are allowed if they are not more than 3 by 8 feet and only to announce or on the occasion of a meeting of the political party. They must be removed within 72 hours after the meeting.

These rules are more honored in the breach than in the observance. Posters of all sizes are pasted everywhere and streamers are strung anywhere to stay long after the elections. Posters may individually comply with the prescribed size but they can be pasted together to make one giant poster to cover entire walls and mock the law.

Violations are reasonably imputable to the candidates themselves, but they can easily deny culpability by pointing to their anonymous supporters. These supporters, who are in their pay, cannot be faulted unless caught in the act, which can happen only during the secret hours of the night when the policemen are asleep.

In fairness, the Comelec cannot be expected to cope with this widespread problem. The problem afflicts not only Metro Manila but also other parts of the country that its limited personnel cannot cover. The local officials may not be expected to help much because they usually are among the violators.

Many months ago, most if not all the mayors in Metro Manila had already erected billboards with their mammoth portraits announcing some project or program they were sponsoring. They were already campaigning then. I had written earlier against the painted advertisements of Mayor Lito Atienza's son who is running for congressman in Manila. These were painted as early as last year, but many of them are still there with the Comelec's blessings.

One possible solution to the problem is to entrust the actual prevention or removal of these illegal posters and streamers to those directly close to the violation. These are the chair and members of the barangay council. They are not running in the coming elections and, moreover, are supposed to be non-partisan under the law. They are also not that busy and can devote their attention to keeping their respective communities neat and law-abiding.

The Constitution provides in its Art. IX(C), Sec. 2 that the Comelec may "deputize, with the concurrence of the President, law-enforcement agencies and instrumentalities of the government, including the Armed Forces of the Philippines, for the exclusive purpose of ensuring free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible elections."

With the President's concurrence, which should not be difficult to obtain, the Commission can order the barangays to prevent the pasting of illegal posters and the stringing of unauthorized streamers or undertake their removal. Persons committing these offenses can be placed under citizen's arrest under the Rules of Court. This should adequately warn these poster pasters that they cannot monkey with the barangays.

To give teeth to the deputization, the chairman of each barangay shall be directly responsible for the failure of the project within his territory and be subject to appropriate administrative and criminal liability. There may even be a contest among the barangays with monetary rewards for their efforts to curb the proliferation of illegal posters and streamers in their respective jurisdictions.

Why not give it a try? Observance of our election laws and keeping our neighborhood clean should be the obligation of every citizen. Perhaps the barangays can point the way to the rest of us in the proper regulation of posters and streamers during this election campaign.

Cool, not cold

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about a man talking to his officemate. "My wife and I had a fight last night," he said. His friend asked him, "How did it end?" "Why, she came crawling to me on her hands and knees" he boasted. "What did she say?" his friend again asked. "She said, 'come out from under that bed, you coward!'," was the reply.

* * *

In Today's Gospel (Jn. 8, 1-11) the teachers of the law and the Pharisees, full of pride, brought in a woman caught in adultery. They were going to use the occasion to embarrass Jesus, but in the end, they exited in shame, almost "crawling on their hands and knees" after they were convicted by Jesus' words. "Let anyone among you who has no sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Today, let us ask for forgiveness for our sins of pride and self-righteousness, specifically for those times we thought (and really believed!) that we were better, holier and more righteous than others, to the point of looking down at "them," or were condescending on "them."

* * *

The Lord teaches us today to be slow in judging and in condemning others. Be not quick to draw in shooting down or putting down people, or belittling their qualities or qualifications. A very clear example of this is how we react to the present list of presidential candidates in the coming elections. By all means, let us elevate our own choices, but that does not entitle us to put down and speak ill of the others who are not of our liking or are not at par with our standards. Let the Magnificat remind us again: "He has cast the mighty from their thrones and He has raised up the lowly."

* * *

The teachers of the law and the Pharisees were right in bringing in a woman caught in adultery "in aid of legislation," for after all, they were teachers of the law. What was wrong was their hidden agenda to raise themselves up and to put down Jesus and the poor woman they caught. How often have we, in the name of God and country and for righteousness' sake, professed dedication and sacrifice, when in fact, our only agenda was our own very selves? Hypocrisy to the 9th. We are all good at this, especially our politicians, they're the best.

* * *

Jesus could have used the occasion to nail forever and get even with those who persecuted Him. Still, He gave them a "gracious exit," He taught them a lesson, but the extra mile was that He allowed them to learn their lesson. Magnanimity to the 9th. Compassion and understanding for those who are misinformed or misled. May we learn to raise up and not to kick those who are already down. Many a Pharisee must have gone home that night wondering what sort of a person Jesus was, amazed by His wisdom, but more so, touched by His gentleness and compassion. Jesus knew how to clear minds and how to melt hearts. Jesus teaches us again not only to aim for the head, but also to go for the heart. Are you all-head-no-heart?

* * *

For husbands who complain, often in frustration that they don't know how to handle their wives, learn from Jesus. How did Jesus handle the woman after everyone has left? One, He gave her respect by calling her "woman." Two, He gave her gentleness. Three, He gave her affirmation. Four, He gave her firm admonition. And five, He did not give the woman the chance to say much! Kidding aside, the formula of respect, gentleness, affirmation and firm admonition is a formula that does wonders for any soul. We should try it more often. The secret is to be gentle but firm, and to be firm, but gentle.

* * *

We were in Tabaco, Albay, Legazpi and Gubat last weekend for Lenten Recollections and Healing Masses. It was a beautiful experience to come home to Bicol where I spent a year of regency as a seminarian at the Divine Word College way back in 1978. I look back with a smile and grateful heart whenever I think of "cool Bicol, warm people." Come to think of it, Jesus shows us today who He was, and what we should be: Cool, but not cold. May we learn to be cool as we go through trials, problems, changes and strains. Through it all, in spite of all, may we keep our hearts warm. Stay cool. Don't grow cold. Stay warm.

* * *

Inviting you to join a pilgrimage to Italy and Medjugorje from May 20 till June 2. There is something about Medjugorje that has brought renewal and conversions to many pilgrims in a very quiet and prayerful way. Also from June 4 to June 8 pilgrimage to Naju, Korea. For particulars, call 5238581 to 88 or 7217457.

* * *

Next Sunday, April 4 is Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week. Join us for a half-day recollection starting at 8 a.m. at the Meralco Theater. Exposed to Jesus, may the Lord remove the coldness in our hearts, and make us aglow again in the Spirit.

* * *

A Moment with the Lord

Lord, teach me to be cool, but not cold, and keep the warmth in my heart as I travel through life. Amen.

Gold in Athens, a worthy cause

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

THE PHILIPPINES first participated in the Olympic Games in 1924 in Paris with a one-man contingent. David Nepomuceno, who himself carried the national colors in the opening parade of participating athletes and officials, competed in the 100-meter and 200-meter track events but reached no farther than the heats. The winners of these contests became the main subjects of the award-winning film "Chariots of Fire." Four years later, in Amsterdam, swimmer Teofilo Yldefonso gave the country its first Olympic medal, a bronze.

At the 1948 London Olympic Games, the first after World War II, a young Fil-American girl, Victoria Manalo, born of a Filipino father and an English mother made it as a member of the US diving team. She captured both the springboard and platform events becoming the first female diver to win two gold medals in a single Olympics and in the process also winning the heart of her American coach, Lyle Draves whom she married.

Since 1924, one achievement has continued to elude us in our quest for excellence and honor in world athletic competitions. While our neighbors in the region like Indonesia, Thailand and tiny Hong Kong have won gold medals in badminton, boxing and wind surfing respectively in Olympic contests, we have still to witness the Philippine flag being raised and the national anthem being played in recognition of world supremacy in a particular event. Forty years ago in the Tokyo Olympiad in 1964, boxer Anthony Villanueva won a silver medal and in 1996 another boxer, Onyok Velasco, also garnered a silver medal in the Atlanta Games. These were the closest we ever got to a gold. In 1988 in Seoul, one of our lady bowlers, Arianne Cerdeña, won top honors but unfortunately, bowling was considered just an exhibition sports and in fact, was scrapped as part of the Olympic Games.

Next August, just five months away, the quadrennial event will once again be held this time in Athens the capital of Greece and the home of the modern Olympiad. Athens, once the cultural center of the Mediterranean, is considered one of the world's most historic and beautiful cities. In 1996, the Centennial Games were held in Atlanta and in 2000 Sydney hosted the competitions with stunning success in what many consider as the best staged Games in history. At the moment, preparations in Athens are far behind schedule with the showpiece of the Games, a $158 million steel-and-glass structure for its Olympic Stadium, still without a roof and competition sites as well as critical infrastructure and transport works incomplete.

A strong-willed lady, Gianna Angelopoulos Daskalaki, is president of Athens-2004, the organization charged with overseeing the Games. In the face of all the concerns which have been raised, she remains confident that Greece will deliver in time for the opening ceremonies. A new government elected only a few weeks ago, has also announced that the Games are its No. 1 priority with the new minister taking on the Ministry of Culture which has direct responsibility for the Olympics.

Understandably, the attention of our own leaders has been focused mainly on the election campaign. But I hope some people are looking after our participation in Athens. Our best bets have always been in boxing and so far the news has not been too encouraging. Last week, for the first time in almost two decades, the Philippines failed to win any event in the second Asian Qualifying Tournament for the boxing competitions which was held in Guangzhou, China although three boxers qualified in an earlier round. Officials have blamed the malfunctions of the computer scoring program. That may be correct. But too often we put the blame on the machines rather than on the men. This is true not only in boxing but in other sports activities. Perhaps it is time that we look into our inner selves and rediscover the virtues of discipline, determination, dedication, hard work and a fighting spirit, all of which go into the making of champions. I understand we have good prospects in taekwondo. If we are to advance our cause, the bickerings and rivalries, the charges and countercharges among our sports officials must not be allowed to emasculate our efforts in athletic competitions.

Part of the problem and this is not new to many of our people, is our inordinate love for the game of basketball, a sport in which we continue to have difficulty competing in the international arena against the behemoths of the National Basketball Association and other cage powers including China with its growing parade of seven footers. This situation has been detrimental to the progress and development of other sports like football, swimming, wrestling and badminton to name a few, activities which do not place a premium on height. In addition, unfortunately some of the games in which we excel like bowling and billiards are not included in the Olympic calendar.

* * *

The last time we struck gold in Athens was when Margie Moran (now Ms Tonyboy Floriendo) won the Miss Universe crown several years ago, filling us with pride and joy. Somehow we must strive to capture once again, the magic of that moment in the city named after Athena, the goddess of wisdom. A gold in Athens would be one of the most memorable events in the history of Philippine sports.

Rehabilitating prisoners

COMMENTARY

Melanie P. Ramos
Institute on Church and Social Issues

AFTER THE LONG and gruelling court proceeding, the verdict has been given. Dadoy, a boy of 17 years, is sentenced to spend 10 years of his young life behind bars. He will be locked up in a place where he has no family and no friends, a place where each man is left on his own. During the entire period of his imprisonment, the state will make him go through whatever program is available to occupy his time and to hopefully change his anti-social behavior. Following this so-called rehabilitation process, he is expected to change into a better person, an individual worthy of rejoining society. In all of this, one thing is certain: prison life will change him. But one cannot say that this will always be for the better.

In many correctional programs for prisoners, a host of activities is introduced to reform the fallen individual. In the Philippines, foremost of these programs is the provision of education. Juvenile offenders in in the New Bilibid Prisons, for instance, can avail themselves of formal and non-formal education, if they wish. Education is not a compulsory program. If a youth does not want to study, he can work in the factory inside Bilibid and earn a small amount per day. If he does not like to work, he'll just have to find other ways to occupy his time.

Some religious organizations and concerned NGOs also organize volunteer work in Bilibid and sponsor livelihood seminars and religious activities for inmates. Organizations such as the Philippine Jesuit Prison Service and Couples for Christ are quite active in sponsoring various activities there.

Despite the various activities in Bilibid, however, there is no systematic rehabilitation program provided by the state. Apart from education and other sports activities, there is not much that an inmate can expect.

In other countries, treatment programs for prisoners are customized according to the needs of each inmate, but this is close to impossible in the Philippines because the framework used in dealing with prisoners is punitive. Justice is served when a criminal is left to rot in prison. He has to work and keep himself busy in order to keep himself sane. Such is the situation of prisoners in the jails and detention centers.

While we do not condone the crimes that these offenders committed and the hurt inflicted on their victims, one should not forget that they are human beings and must be treated as such. The situation in our prisons falls below human standards and is not conducive to rehabilitation and treatment. One cannot say whether prisoners who are released from prison are better persons or more hardened individuals capable of committing graver crimes.

One juvenile offender, who was recently released from Bilibid, said that he learned a lot of things while in prison. While he was thankful that he was able to study there, he thought inmates, especially juveniles, should be provided more productive activities to keep them from getting bored and fraternizing with ruthless adult inmates. In his case, he said, regular counseling sessions could have helped him thresh out issues about his family prior to his release from jail and relate with other family members after not seeing them for a very long time.

Apparently the Philippine correctional system does not have a clear pre-release program for prisoners to help them in their transition from prison life to the real world. Rehabilitation is indeed an elusive term in the Philippine correctional system.

Ven Jo Tesoro, superintendent of the Maximum Security Prisons, said in one of his articles, "If one were to ask 100 correctional officers what rehabilitation means, chances are one will get as many conflicting interpretations." He admitted that "what is lacking is a consolidated or standardized view of what inmate management should be and what constitutes the very objective of corrections."

Is the objective merely to isolate inmates and prevent them from committing more offenses or is it to expose them to situations where they can learn and change their lives for the better? Or is it both? These questions need to be answered to determine how to properly manage our prisons and effectively rehabilitate offenders.

Rehabilitating prisoners is not an easy task. Some researches say that for an effective rehabilitation program to prosper, it must possess three characteristics. First, the rehabilitation program must be structured, intensive and focused on changing specific behaviors. Second, it must involve the family of the prisoner. Lastly, integrated, multi-modal treatment approaches are necessary. This means that collaboration among public agencies providing such services as mental health and the justice system must be supported and sustained.

Our crime rate is worsening and our jails are becoming more congested. Our young people are committing more heinous crimes without care and with abandon. And we are jailing more people than the prisoners being released.

Incarcerating criminals is a costly endeavor—and without effective treatment programs to help reform prisoners, such an exercise would just be a lot of waste.

(Due to technical difficulties we are unable to publish Rina Jimenez-David's column today.—Ed.)

A consensus of acquiescence

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THE SAD thing about the coming presidential elections is not that the leading candidates have refused to debate. The real tragedy is that concrete issues that should be debated are treated as non-negotiable and not part of the agenda of national discourse.

A consensus of acquiescence appears to define every discussion of those very conditions that constrain our every attempt at development. As a result, hardly any serious debate at the level of the political leadership has been held on issues like the management of our foreign debt, our participation in a global free trade regime, and our role in the American-led global war on terrorism. Given the gravity of the crisis we confront, one would have thought the ability to think boldly out of the box would be the first requirement of leadership in our time.

But it is amazing, for instance, how a term like "debt restructuring" could provoke a chorus of sanctimonious hissing from the subalterns of global capital. The word conventionally refers to a negotiated rescheduling of debts, though in some usage it may include other schemes of debt-reduction. The International Monetary Fund itself once toyed with the idea of a Sovereign Debt Restructuring Mechanism, dropping it only after some banks opposed it. Yet, when candidate Fernando Poe Jr. uttered the word "restructuring" recently, his critics instantly endowed it with recklessness and equated it with unilateral "repudiation."

The meticulous avoidance of forbidden words like "debt repudiation" and "debt cancellation" has been a feature of official policy since Marcos. Yet interestingly, after the United States took over Iraq, the neo-conservatives who laid the ideological warrant for the invasion of that hapless country proposed the cancellation of debts incurred under Saddam Hussein. So why can't a country like the Philippines, which accumulated its own share of odious debts through the collusion of a dictatorship and some greedy creditors, consider this option?

The answer lies in the fact that many crucial issues of our national life have been quietly removed from the agenda of public discussion. The servicing of the foreign debt is one of these. Every year, the Philippine government automatically sets aside about 30 to 35 percent of the national budget for debt service under a Marcos-crafted presidential decree. PD 1177 provides for the automatic appropriation of funds for debt servicing, immunizing this huge chunk of money in the budget from any debate in Congress.

The same timidity may be seen in our participation in the World Trade Organization, a regulatory body controlled by the rich countries. The reform of this world body is long overdue because it has served mainly as an instrument of a predatory form of globalization.

Gone are the days when a nation-state, using the institutions of its political democracy, could set the terms of its own growth. That was what economic planning at the national level meant. These days, what is called economic planning amounts to no more than the calibration of structural adjustments mandated by bodies like the IMF and the World Bank.

On the advice of its technocrats, our government treats these harmful adjustments as a technical matter rather than as a political decision. Vital policies with far-reaching effects on our people's lives—like the handling of the foreign debt, trade liberalization, deregulation and privatization—are given a pseudo-scientific spin in order to take them away from the realm of public debate.

The silent conspiracy that attends the treatment of vital economic questions may also be seen in the foreign policy sphere. As national economic policy-making has become illusory, so also has the crafting of foreign policy. These questions used to constitute the core of authentic presidential debates in democratic countries. Today they have vanished from the public sphere.

Ms Macapagal-Arroyo volunteered our participation in a legally and morally questionable war without bothering to consult Congress. She sent troops and humanitarian workers to Iraq without waiting for a warrant from the United Nations. She placed the entire country in grave peril of possible retaliation from America's enemies without feeling obliged to explain what we were getting into and what consequences such a decision could bring upon our people. She authorized the deployment of foreign troops to sites of actual conflict in the Philippines without considering the danger of escalation that could result from the entry of a foreign power like America into our domestic conflict zones.

That we have long learned to live with this state of affairs speaks volumes about the way we take for granted our democratic and sovereign rights as a people. The reality is that we've hardly noticed that we have lost control over many vital aspects of our national life.

Our political leaders argue over everything except the things that matter to our nation's future. They talk about poverty and governance, unaware that they have long abdicated the right to speak on the crucial issues that determine our nation's capacity to carry out meaningful reforms in these areas.

The real question of our time is how the Filipino people may regain effective control over their collective fate in a globalized world. None of the presidential candidates seems interested to talk about this.

* * *

Comments to randolf@pacific.net.ph

Bad advertisement

COMMENTARY

Raul J. Palabrica

A MATTER of principle or a question of pride?

Depending on your outlook in life, either one could be cited as the reason for the refusal of Destileria Limtuaco to pull out its "Kinse Años" advertisement in spite of repeated demands by women's and religious organizations.

The makers of Napoleon Brandy, the alcoholic drink that is being promoted by the ad, believe the contested wording (*"Nakatikim ka na ba ng Kinse Años?"*) has no sexual connotation, contrary to the claims of its critics.

This is probably the first time in the history of commercial advertising in our country that a criminal complaint for violation of decency laws has been filed against the owners of a product being advertised. Also unprecedented is the rejection by the advertising agency that handled the ad of the order of the Advertising Board of the Philippines to cease and desist from using it.

What's more, Destileria filed a complaint for damages against the AdBoard for issuing that directive. This prompted the national organization of advertisers to come out in public to support the board's action. By that move, the advertisers virtually disowned one of their own.

In times past, the adverse publicity generated by an ad would have compelled its advertiser to immediately withdraw the promotions material from circulation. Unlike in show biz, where publicity, good or bad, is considered a boon, the advertising industry is careful about the kind of attention that the products of their genius generate from the public.

Point of view

Absence of malice is the defense being invoked by the brandy owners. Their argument may be summarized as: The controversial words refer to the age of the alcoholic drink. There is nothing in the ad or accompanying photo that gives the impression that the person to be "tasted" is a 15-year-old girl. The public should take the words at their face value, period.

Nice try. But this line of argument ignores a long held legal principle that whether a word or phrase is defamatory, derogatory or malicious should be interpreted from the point of view of the person reading or hearing it. Words are by their nature neutral, it is the manner they are used or read by the people to whom they are directed that determines their intended meaning.

Take, for example, the word "bastard." The person uttering that word in reference to another may think it's just a figure of speech or something that shouldn't be taken seriously. But from the perspective of the person to whom the word is directed, it is a serious affront to his dignity and constitutes justifiable reason to go berserk.

It is futile for the people behind the "Kinse Años" ad to claim that no malice attended the use of the controversial words. In the first place, it is not usual for alcohol drinkers in this country to refer to their favorite beverages by the number of years that they've been aged.

In referring to their drinks, they either mention the brand names (such as, Black Label, Fundador or Chivas) or simply use the generic "brandy," "scotch" or "vodka." For those who cannot afford the expensive stuff, the choices are "beer," "lapad," "long neck" or "stainless." Rare is the drinker who describes his favorite drink by the age of its distillation or brewing. Only show-offs do that.

Subtle

While it is true the "Kinse Años" outdoor ads do not mention 15-year-old girls, the accompanying radio ads (which have been withdrawn) contained subtle references to them. In those ads, a female talent was presented as berating her husband for allegedly having an affair with a 15-year-old. The husband denied the charge and said it was with Napoleon Brandy that he was involved with, not a female teenager.

It does not need a psychology graduate to figure out that the words "*kinse años*" were not used in their neutral or innocent context. They were chosen primarily to convey a subliminal message that drinking that kind of brandy would be like being in the company of a girl who has just entered her teens. Let your imagination figure out the connotations of that scenario.

The same persuasion technique underlies advertisements for tobacco and liquor products. Cigarette smoking or alcohol drinking is associated with having fun with beautiful women dressed in skimpy clothes who are willing to frolic in the water the whole day or party all night with men who smoke or drink the product being advertised. The reference to sexual enjoyment if one drinks or smoke the product is unmistakable.

Considering the heavy flak that the ad received from various sectors of our society, it looks like the advertising agency that conceptualized it did not conduct a market test to determine the public's reaction to it. Had it done so, it could have had an inkling of the criticisms and made the appropriate changes in the ad's format.

It is bad enough that this precautionary measure was not taken. Worse, instead of doing postmortem "damage control," the advertisers took a belligerent stand on the issue.

Goodwill

The advertisers could have turned the advertisement fiasco into its favor. Rather than berate the critics and sue the AdBoard, they could have simply heeded the clamor for the ad's removal from circulation.

Imagine the goodwill the product would have earned from the public if its owners announced that while they do not agree with the criticisms and see nothing wrong with the use of the words "*kinse años*," they are nonetheless withdrawing the ad to put an end to the controversy.

With that statement, all the recriminations and ill will that were generated by the ad would be erased from the public's mind. The company may even be looked at as a responsible corporation that is sensitive to the public pulse. Those brownie points, if handled skillfully, can be used to project Napoleon Brandy in a more favorable light before its drinkers.

An otherwise manageable crisis situation has turned ugly. The filing of cases in court, destruction of a billboard, calls for a product boycott, picketing of bars and, lately, the entry of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board into the picture could have been avoided had the people behind the ad been more level-headed.

Although things may have gotten out of hand, it is not too late for the company to take a second look at its position. If it thinks it can promote its 15-year-old brandy through bad publicity, it is in for a big surprise. It should not underestimate the persuasive powers of the women's and religious organizations behind the crusade to get rid of the ad.

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

ELEKSYON 2004

Loren: Let's solve poverty first

THE VICE PRESIDENT is a heartbeat away from the presidency. He or she can become the Chief Executive if something happens to the President. "In case of death, permanent disability, removal from office, or resignation of the President, the Vice President shall become the President to serve the unexpired term," says Section 8, Article 7 of the Constitution.

As the then Vice President, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo became President in January 2001 because Joseph Estrada left Malacañang at the height of Edsa II. But Estrada and his followers claim that he did not resign.

"No person who has succeeded as President and has served as such for more than four years shall be qualified for election to the same office at any time," says Section 4, Article 7 of the Constitution.

Because Ms Macapagal has served less than four years of the unexpired term of Estrada, she is deemed qualified to run for a full-six year term. And so we have an incumbent President running for president.

Only three—Sen. Loren Legarda, Sen. Noli de Castro and former Tarlac Rep. Hermie Aquino—are vying for the vice presidency.

Seven weeks into the campaign, most voters have yet to know the platforms of the vice presidential candidates. This is because the media have focused on the presidential candidates.

We are featuring today the views of Legarda on economic, political and social concerns and how she plans to address them. In the next issues of Talk of the Town, we will feature De Castro and Aquino.

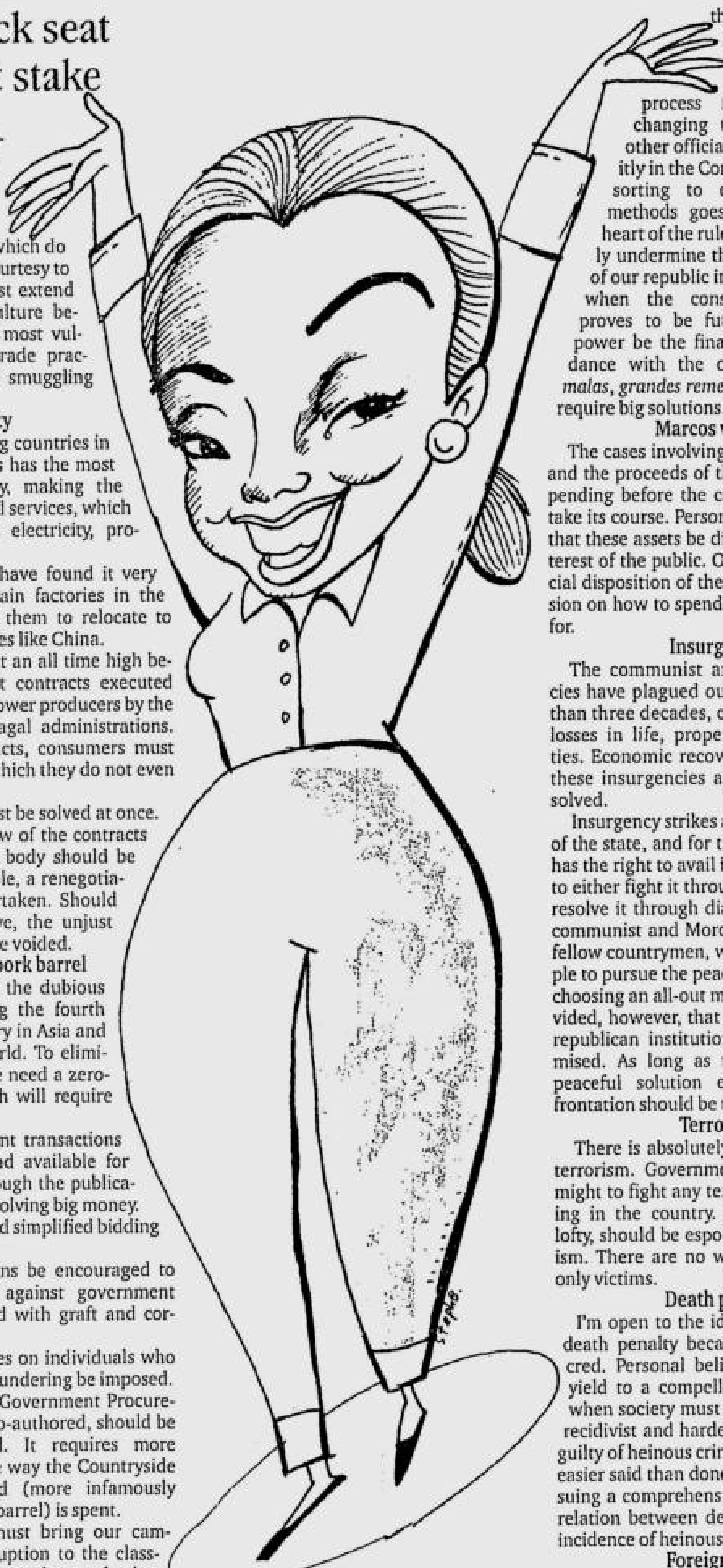

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO/
PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO

Friendships must take a back seat when national interest is at stake

By Loren Legarda
Vice presidential candidate
Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino

Poverty is the most serious problem confronting our nation today because it is the root of practically all social evils. Its magnitude is so overwhelming that even state institutions mandated to solve the problem have been stupefied.

The fight against poverty means giving Filipinos employment opportunities and access to basic social services like housing, health care and education. Then, and only then, can the evils of crime, malnutrition, prostitution, juvenile delinquency, drug abuse and insurgency, among others, be kept to a minimum, if not eliminated. Liberating the Filipino from the dehumanizing effects of poverty is, therefore, the priority in my political agenda as well as the focus in the platform of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino.

The old governing order has miserably failed to improve the lot of our people. Change is imperative. Now is the time for the Filipino to reject the empty promises and gimmickry of the administration and install a new one that will work hard to alleviate the plight of the poor so that in the long run, peace, progress and prosperity will all be ours to enjoy.

ABS-CBN, Lopez family

ABS-CBN is where my professional career as a broadcast journalist was nurtured and developed and I will always be grateful to the Lopez family for the support they gave me during my early years in the television industry. I am unaware of how they view my candidacy, but ours is a vibrant democracy in which freedom of choice is a right. It is a right I will always respect.

My professional ties and personal friendships, no matter how cherished, must take a back seat when matters of national interest are at stake. Public service demands nothing less.

Unemployment

Our nation is poorer than most Filipinos think, and the gap between the rich and the poor is alarming. This gap is a potential political and social powder keg, which must be defused before it is too late.

Bringing economic and employment opportunities to the countryside by establishing small- and medium-scale enterprises is a good beginning. Government must offer these enterprises tax incentives and easy access to capital.

Deficit

We have a deficit problem because the government spends more than it earns. If this remains unchecked, runaway inflation will make life for the average Filipino more difficult.

Solving it requires increasing government revenues, not through additional taxes but through more efficient tax collection. Government should also put an end to indiscriminate borrowing. Funds should be used prudently.

Debt service

While it has the obligation to pay its debts, government must find the means to set aside a bigger share of the national budget for urgent social expenditures and anti-poverty programs. We are a decent, civilized nation and for this reason we will never put the interest of our people in peril just to service the national debt.

Globalization

Under our treaty obligations, the Philippines is committed to liberalize trade with other nations by, among others, lowering tariffs on imported goods. Unfortunately, our gestures of good faith have not been reciprocated by most developed nations. Worse, there is dumping and smuggling with the seeming consent of the administration. This, in turn, ruins local industries.

The Philippine battle cry should be fair trade in a free trade context. Because our country complies with the international rules of free trade, we must insist that nations that trade with us do the same.

To level the playing field, the Philippines should withhold tariff reductions currently enjoyed by countries, which do not offer the same courtesy to us. Government must extend protection to agriculture because this sector is most vulnerable to unfair trade practices. Dumping and smuggling must be stopped.

Electricity

Among developing countries in Asia, the Philippines has the most expensive electricity, making the costs of products and services, which depend heavily on electricity, prohibitive.

Many industries have found it very expensive to maintain factories in the country, prompting them to relocate to neighboring countries like China.

Power rates are at an all time high because of the unjust contracts executed with independent power producers by the Ramos and Macapagal administrations. Under these contracts, consumers must pay for electricity, which they do not even use.

This problem must be solved at once. For starters, a review of the contracts by an independent body should be done. Where possible, a renegotiation must be undertaken. Should push come to shove, the unjust contracts ought to be voided.

Corruption and pork barrel

The country has the dubious distinction of being the fourth most corrupt country in Asia and the 11th in the world. To eliminate corruption, we need a zero-graft agenda, which will require that:

- All government transactions be above board and available for public scrutiny through the publication of contracts involving big money.
- Negotiated and simplified bidding be stopped.
- Private citizens be encouraged to take legal action against government transactions tainted with graft and corruption.
- Stiffer penalties on individuals who engage in money laundering be imposed.

In addition, the Government Procurement Act, a law I co-authored, should be fully implemented. It requires more transparency in the way the Countryside Development Fund (more infamously known as the pork barrel) is spent.

Moreover, we must bring our campaign against corruption to the classrooms. Our youth must be taught that crime does not pay and that corruption in a poor country like ours is the worst possible crime.

Land reform, food security

It's not enough that land be given to the landless. Government must take steps to help the farmer make full use of his land through a support system, which makes loans, equipment, supplies and technology readily available to him at affordable rates. Agrarian reform communities must be reorganized to make them more responsive to government food production programs.

Environment

I have long been involved in environmental causes like the nationwide tree-planting project. Many have joined me in these undertakings. Unfortunately, these are not enough if we are to save the environment for future generations.

Government must have the political will to enforce laws which protect the forests, watersheds and the air we breathe. One law that must be implemented at all cost is the Clean Air Act, which I co-authored.

Sustainable development should move from the realm of pure rhetoric to the world of reality. For instance, the water shortage problem may be solved by collecting rainwater. Dams should be put up in areas where the topography suits it, taking care not to unnecessarily displace people and disrupt the local ecosystem.

Environmental protection courses should be included in the curriculum.

Charter change

We should not be afraid of it. The Constitution is not and was never conceived to be a static document. But the Charter must remain within the parameters of a government organization that is democratic, republican, efficient and humane.

Like many others, I believe that certain provisions of the Constitution require rethinking. For example, a federal form of government is more suitable to the needs of the Filipino people than a unitary one. Federalism, to my mind, guarantees autonomy for the countryside, makes for a government that is in more direct contact with the problems of the masses, and does away with unnecessary bureaucracy almost always associated with the central government in Manila.

Erap pardon

The criminal cases against President Joseph Estrada is pending before the Sandiganbayan so the matter of an executive pardon for him may amount to prejudgment. Besides, President Estrada himself has ruled out any pardon for him and insists that justice take its course.

People power

The democratic process for electing and changing the president and other officials is laid out explicitly in the Constitution. Thus, resorting to extra-constitutional methods goes against the very heart of the rule of law and will only undermine the political stability of our republic in the long run. Only when the constitutional process proves to be futile should people power be the final remedy in accordance with the old saying *grandes malas, grandes remedios*—big problems require big solutions.

Marcos wealth

The cases involving the Marcos wealth and the proceeds of the coconut levy are pending before the courts, so let justice take its course. Personally, I would prefer that these assets be disposed of in the interest of the public. Only upon final judicial disposition of these cases will a decision on how to spend the funds be called for.

Insurgency

The communist and Moro insurgencies have plagued our country for more than three decades, causing tremendous losses in life, property and opportunities. Economic recovery is impossible if these insurgencies are not properly resolved.

Insurgency strikes at the very existence of the state, and for this reason, the state has the right to avail itself of every means to either fight it through military force or resolve it through dialogue. Because the communist and Moro insurgents are our fellow countrymen, we owe it to our people to pursue the peaceful way out before choosing an all-out military solution, provided, however, that our democratic and republican institutions are not compromised. As long as the possibility of a peaceful solution exists, violent confrontation should be the final recourse.

Terrorism

There is absolutely no justification for terrorism. Government must use all its might to fight any terrorist group operating in the country. No cause, however lofty, should be espoused through terrorism. There are no winners in terrorism, only victims.

Death penalty

I'm open to the idea of abolishing the death penalty because every life is sacred. Personal belief, however, should yield to a compelling state interest as when society must be protected against recidivist and hardened criminals found guilty of heinous crimes. This, however, is easier said than done. I'm in favor of pursuing a comprehensive study on the correlation between death penalty and the incidence of heinous crimes.

Foreign policy

The Philippines must pursue an independent foreign policy that upholds the national interest. There is nothing objectionable about maintaining friendly ties with its former colonizers—the United States and Spain.

The country must continue to support the United Nations in its task of maintaining world peace, containing aggression and fighting terrorism. We must also fulfill our obligations to the world community in accordance with international law. As the Constitution mandates, war must never be an instrument of national policy.

Supreme Court

The Supreme Court has the final word on what the Constitution says and, more importantly, what the Constitution means. That is the basic ground rule of our constitutional government. Thus, when the Supreme Court has spoken on a matter involving the Constitution, we must respect it.

Jueteng

The illegal numbers game appears to be part of the rural and urban landscape. Efforts to eradicate it have failed and the stronger the effort to suppress it, the greater the propensity there is for corruption. Because *jueteng* is no different from the games of chance administered by the state through Pagcor, perhaps the state can use it as a means for raising revenue legitimately. Considering that some communities are open to this idea while some are not, it is best that the matter of whether *jueteng* may operate in a certain locality should be left to local government units.

Population

The country's population is estimated at more than 80 million and is increasing at an annual rate of 2.36 percent. This growth rate results in lesser resources for our people and more poverty in the long run. Clearly, a population management policy is in order. The state should undertake an information campaign in this regard and let couples decide, taking into account their religious beliefs and social norms on the number of children they want.

Divorce

Couples must be given a choice on the basis of their religious faith, intellectual beliefs and social attitudes. Democracy guarantees choice.

Abortion

Abortion is illegal under Philippine laws. Young Filipinos must be provided with adequate information on family planning and fertility so that unwanted pregnancies may be avoided.

Prostitution

Making sex a commodity goes against our cultural and moral standards and undermines human dignity. Ending prostitution requires giving the marginalized an opportunity to get basic education and the chance to acquire gainful employment.

Gay rights

The sexuality of an individual is not the business of government as long as the individuals concerned don't disturb society or cause harm to others.

Education

Philippine education is deteriorating. State investment in education is at an all time low. Forty out of 100 students enrolled in public schools drop out before reaching high school. The performance of our students in science and math competitions abroad is an embarrassment. In the age of information technology, this is unpardonable.

Once upon a time, the Philippines was the leader in the field of education in Southeast Asia. We must regain that status.

The state must increase investments in education to at least six percent of the gross national product and approximate, as much as possible, the benchmark set by Unesco for this purpose. More classrooms, textbooks, desks and teachers must be made available immediately. If there is no money for these, then the money must be found.

Debt-for-education incentives in which firms that owe the national government can settle their obligations by sponsoring scholarship projects should be explored to the fullest. Even the voucher system for secondary and college students must be encouraged.

Information technology will open the door to great opportunities for our youth while agriculture will always be a staple industry for the Filipino. Thus, schools and universities specializing in information technology should be put up. For starters, the University of the Philippines must be given all the support possible in terms of fiscal incentives and faculty funding so that its status as a premiere educational institution of the land is maintained. Its campus in Los Baños can serve as an educational center specializing in frontier agriculture and fishery technology. In other aspects, there must be emphasis on language, science and mathematics.

Housing

The administration admits that nearly 50 percent of our people do not have adequate and decent housing. The KNP will make affordable housing available to our people through a revitalized lending program of the SSS, the GSIS, the Pag-Ibig Fund and other government agencies.

Malnutrition

Some 15.6 million Filipinos were malnourished in 2002, according to the Population Commission. A school-based feeding program is the most effective strategy to combat malnutrition. An intensified food production program is also imperative, as population growth has been outpacing food production

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House bets snub pact for peaceful polls

LUCENA CITY—Only two of the 16 congressional candidates in Quezon attended the signing on Friday of a peace covenant for an honest and orderly election this May, leaving the event sponsors with no other option but to chase the candidates in their campaign sorties for their signatures.

Fr. Arnel Galleon, chair of Quezon Council of Community of Elders, said, "since these candidates are now busy with their campaigns, we might as well track them down to get their cooperation and commitment for the holding of an honest and peaceful election."

He admitted, however, that the covenant signing was "short in notice."

From the total of 16 congressional aspirants in the four provincial districts, only businessman-environmentalist Proceso Alcala (LP) and senior Lucena City Councilor Romano Talaga (KNP), both contesting the seat held by 2nd District Rep. Lynette Punzalan (Lakas-CMD), showed up.

Punzalan did not show up and just sent her chief of staff as her representative.

Peasant leader Efren Villaseñor, who joined the congressional race in the province's 4th District also sent a proxy.

Incumbent Representatives Rafael Nantes (LP, 1st Dist.), Aleta Suarez (LP, 3rd Dist.) and Georgilou Hermida-Yumol (4th Dist.) were all absent during the signing ceremony held at the Quezon PNP Clubhouse. Yumol did not seek reelection.

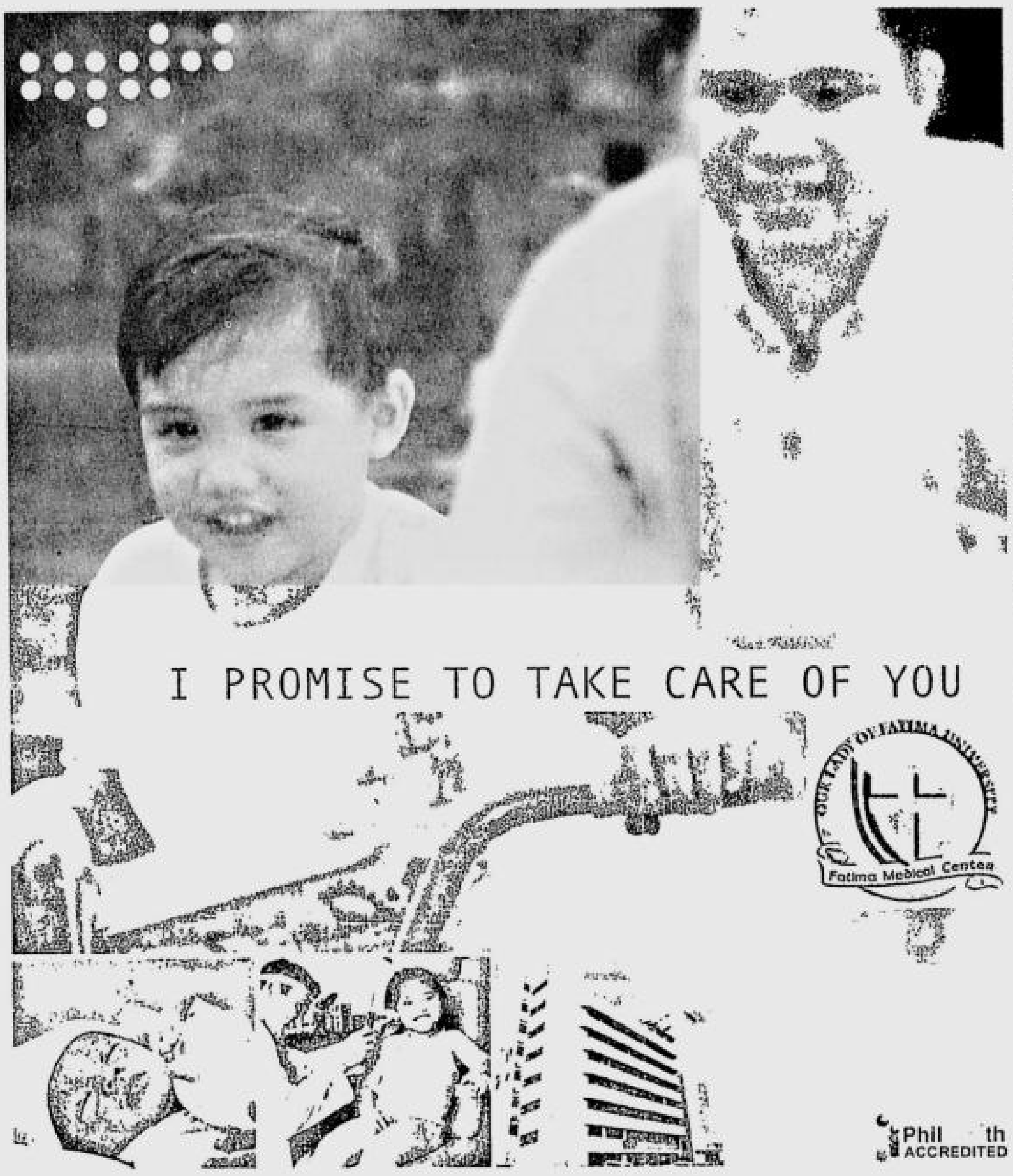
Police said all the 16 congressional candidates had been notified. But although short in the expected signatories, the ceremony proceeded with Senior Supt. Leo Kison, Quezon police chief, even describing it as a "success."

Lawyer Adolfo Ilagan, chief of the Commission on Elections-Quezon, urged all candidates to follow and strictly observe the law on election campaign.

"We don't have the capability to monitor all the goings-on," he admitted.

The "Signing of Covenant for Honest, Orderly and Peaceful Election" is a joint project of the provincial police office, Commission on Elections and the Quezon Council of Community of Elders.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



From the moment you cradle him in your arms, there is an unspoken bond between you and your child.

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Nico A. Alconaba**

'MingMing': A play of hide and seek

REVIEW

By Pearlsha Abubakar
Contributor

THERE is a saying among the Arabs that hiding one's thoughts is a sign of deep intelligence.

In playwright-director Steven Patrick Fernandez's short but ambitious work, "MingMing," which ran for less than two hours at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) Huseng Batute on Feb. 22 as part of National Arts Month's Mindanao Week, the characters are forever drawing circles around each other.

That "MingMing" is a love story set in Muslim Mindanao makes the play very interesting to me (and to most Pinoys), given our hopelessly quixotic nature; set in a culture that I have never fully understood, it makes for a compelling psychological drama whose suspenseful quality recalls the favorite game of our childhood.

The whole suspense lies in the fact that the play doesn't unfold in a linear fashion. It begins in the end, in the death of MingMing. Like the throngs that gather at the scene of a crime, the audience describes the stage in an almost perfect circle.

Surrounding the stage are gauzy white curtains where images of war and Mindanao are projected in between acts and on whose flimsy surfaces faces of veiled women and knife-eyed men stare back at you in neon chalk. As more people arrive in a steady stream, two snow-white gods glittering in one corner, laugh and snicker while making some languid body movements, as though dismissing everyone's presence. If you happen to be extra-paranoid, you'll be hurling your bottle of mineral water at them in no time.

But the truth is, they are laughing at everything and nothing in particular.

According to veteran writers Chari Cruz Lucero (fresh from a victory at the Philippine Free Press) and close friend, Christine Godinez-Ortega (fresh from Legazpi City after attending the Second Bicol Writers conference), who were watching the play with me, these mischievous figures are called *tonong* or spirits who look on with a smirk as we humans live out our crazy lives.

The play unfolds behind the gauzy veil that surrounded the stage, lending a dreamy quality to our experience. I feel like a Peeping Tom, and perhaps the rest of the audience watching behind these sheets feel the same, and there was a kind of sensual energy rippling through the crowd. This is something they have never seen before. This is the rip in the fabric of Maranao-Muslim culture.

Almost directly across from where we are (this is a very intimate stage), a few feet from the *tonong*, three figures—one male and two females—are seated on a table, immobile, their faces lost in an eternal expression of worry and regret. You know right away they are MingMing's relatives, the older woman is her grandmother (Venus Tan), the younger, sprightly woman, her mother (Jinggay Penola), and the grim-looking bearded man in fatigues (Al Fay Vintola) is some avuncular relation of hers with a death wish.

At the heart of this drama is radiant MingMing (Elaine Macamay), who is, quite inevitably, lying dead in the center of the stage, wrapped in a white shroud.

This, by itself, is already very disturbing to behold. More so when the lights dim and the projections of mosques and tanks on the curtains transport us to Muslim Mindanao (somewhere between Maguindanao and Lanao, a professor in the audience later informs us during the open forum after the performance).

As the spotlights return, the *tonong* lift the shroud of death from MingMing, who wakes up and utters her first line. The grandmother does the same, then the mother, then the uncle, and so on, but their lines aren't directed at any one person. They are screaming and crying their thoughts out, but no one among them is listening to the other.

The character's lines, always spoken passionately, convey to us some semblance of a plot, and we are compelled to string them together into a story. In a sense, the play works as an interactive piece as we react, not after its conclusion, but during the process of its unraveling (and this almost renders moot the open forum after the performance).

Family feud

Through the bits and pieces of lines spilling out, we learn that the grandmother is married to a scion of a powerful political clan to end a family feud; the bearded man (who is her secret lover and brother-in-law!) deliberately falls sick by eating a live lizard on the day of her wedding, and becomes a militant fundamentalist, fighting off the modern ways slowly impinging on the old.

To save the dwindling family fortune, the grandmother eventually marries her daughter to a blueblood who turns out to have an appetite for young boys. Ostensibly, the daughter seeks affection some place else, and MingMing, kept in the dark about her real father's identity, is the love child, the tear-stained accretion of these poisonous tragedies.

The things I know about my culture—the honor, the chastity, the women powerless in love and even less so in anger, the beauty and the horror of Koran-reciting men in army boots, ready to slay a wayward brother or sister to uphold the *maratabat* (pride)—thrash about me like a fish out of water, yearning to throw themselves into the sea of lines being spoken by the characters: *"Ayoko na! Huwag! Makinig naman kayo sa akin!"*

The mind tries to situate the disjointed lines in familiar contexts (Is it an honor killing? Did her uncle kill her?) and something in me moves. The effect is gunfire-bursts of insight in the dead calm of endless questions.

Stunned

But how about the rest of the audience? Surely they must be experiencing these bursts as well! I look at their faces, mostly those of young students probably stunned out of a lazy weekend for this one class requirement, and realize that it is enough that they get even the slightest sense of this hopelessness, that oppression is not the property of any one culture.

Like an arrow pushed very far back against the bow, the slightest sense of tension will propel the audience's minds across a great distance, and somehow make them understand: What the hell is going on here?

Consider a line spoken by the bearded man (Vintola): *"Hindi dapat nag-aaral ang babae."*

At first, he appears to have spoken it out of spite, but later, you get a sense that he is driven by motives more profound than just sheer anger, when you realize how the very notion of dialectical discourse has no place in a culture whose very essence is submission. In the end, it is their articulate intelligence, fed by years of study in Manila's finest schools, that actually drives MingMing and her mother ever closer to the edge of their sanity, that eventually claims MingMing in a death that is not just literal, but eternal.

Given the postmodern nature of the play, the actors' performances, while deeply moving and passionate, are no longer the whole point. The point is not in getting answers, but in unearthing more questions. The point is in the hide and seek.

The play works because it perplexes. When there is a gap between two cultures (in this case, Manila and the Muslim South), everybody tends to rush out and build bridges of understanding. Endless forums and interfaith discussions abound. But with MingMing and with all their other creative meditations on Mindanao cultures, the Integrated Performing Arts Guild, which is based in Iligan City, has succeeded in breaking new ground.

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Residents want town placed under Comelec control

STA. MARIA, Ilocos Sur—Residents and officials of this town said they want their area put under the control of the Commission on Elections following the attack on Vice Mayor Romeo Tan on Thursday.

"Fear is being felt all over the town because of what happened to Vice Mayor Tan," said Lakas mayoral bet Ellen Cabatu, Tan's running mate.

Tan, 44, was shot and wounded by two armed men near the Sta. Maria Church Compound at about 5:30 a.m. He was supposed to attend the signing of an election peace covenant with other candidates in the church when attacked.

Tan, a party mate of gubernatorial candidate Luis "Chavit" Singson, is running for reelection.

Tan earlier told reporters that the attack was politically motivated.

Cabatu said at least 1,000 residents gathered for a prayer rally Thursday night and voiced out their concern for peaceful elections in the town.

"It was initiated by barangay officials through text messages. The people responded overwhelmingly," she said.

She claimed that her political leaders were being harassed by their rivals.

Singson said he asked Tan to stay calm and not to retaliate.

"Let the law enforcers handle the case. People (from rival political camps) should control their emotions because it might cause other violent incidents," Singson said.

Senior Supt. Mario Subagan, Ilocos Sur police director, said the police would ask rival candidates in the town to sign a peace covenant to avoid further violence.

"We need to have commitment from both camps of their full cooperation through a peace covenant," Subagan said.

In a radio interview, Mayor Edgar Florendo of the Liberal Party said he and his group had nothing to do with the attack on Tan.

In Batangas, two unidentified armed men gunned down a candidate for councilor in Talisay town 6 a.m., yesterday in Barangay Quiling.

Talisay chief of police Senior Insp. Jonathan Tangonan Jr. identified the victim as Venancio Centeno Jr., 50, a resident of Barangay Quiling, who was running for town councilor under the Liberal Party banner.

"Centeno was just waiting for his takeout *lugaw* (porridge) that was still being wrapped by the vendor when two armed men on board a red motorcycle came and shot him. Centeno got four bullet wounds on his back," Tangonan said.

The two still unidentified gunmen fled towards Tanauan City, he said.

Centeno was rushed to the St. Andrew's hospital in town, but was dead on arrival. His corpse was then taken to Funeraria Vilma in nearby Tanauan City, he added.

Police recovered five empty shells of .45-caliber pistol and two deformed slugs from the same caliber on the crime scene.

But Tangonan stressed that the killing was not election related, as it was Centeno's first time to run for councilor. Centeno ran for barangay captain in 2002 but lost.

"We in the police department have known Centeno very well because he had been helping us in fighting drug addiction here in Talisay. He was even with us last month during the Lakbay Droga program. He was very active in the anti-drug campaign," Tangonan said.

He added Centeno had been in bad terms with a former neighbor, who was a suspected drug pusher.

"We're theorizing that the man had an old grudge on Centeno," Tangonan said. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Japanese held for marijuana

CAMP DANGWA, La Trinidad, Benguet—Police arrested on Thursday two Japanese men who were transporting more than P1.6-million worth of marijuana bricks in Bontoc, Mt. Province. Police reports identified the suspects as Shunsuke Tamazaki, 32, a native of Kanagawa, Japan, and Yohei Saito, 21, a native of Tokyo. Seized from them were 13 bricks of marijuana weighing 1,360 kilograms. Tamazaki and Saito are detained at the Mt. Province provincial jail in Bontoc.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Suspected reb nabbed

BULACAN, Bulacan—A suspected top official of the New People's Army in Bulacan was arrested by a joint police and military team in his house in Barangay Taliptip here on Thursday. Reports said Willy Montemor, 46, finance officer of an NPA unit operating in Bulacan's coastal areas, was arrested for illegal possession of firearms charges filed before the Bulacan prosecutor's office. Supt. Arnold Gunnacao, Bulacan police intelligence and investigation chief, said they recovered an M-16 Armalite rifle from Montemor's house. But Virginia Montemor, the suspect's wife, and the Alyansa ng Mamamayan para sa Pantaong Karapatan (ALMMA) said Montemor is not an NPA rebel. Virginia said her husband is a fishpond caretaker and salesman of animal feeds.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Barangay head found dead

CITY OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE—A missing barangay captain in this city was found dead in Rodriguez, Rizal on Thursday. Police said a resident in Barangay Macabud in Rodriguez reported finding the decomposing body of Lope Oliveros, barangay captain of San Isidro here. Supt. Marcelo Morales, city police chief, said Oliveros was reported missing on March 7, after a group of men abducted him near his house in San Isidro. Police are looking into a land dispute as a motive in Oliveros' murder.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Sorsogon teacher punched

JUBAN, Sorsogon—A barangay chair here allegedly punched and tried to poke a gun at a teacher of the Bacolod National High School (BNHS) inside the office of the principal on Monday. Roger Ariate, a BNHS teacher, told police that at about 12:45 p.m., while he was in the principal's office talking with the parents of one of his students, barangay captain Ramon Lacsa, allegedly under the influence of liquor, entered the office and punched him on his head and tried to poke his handgun on him. The incident was reportedly precipitated by a controversy between BNHS principal Benita Cielo and nine teachers, including Ariate. Lacsa is reportedly on the side of Cielo.

Emir Emano Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Election task force

LEGAZPI CITY—Government and private agencies last week launched the Inter-Agency Task Force Election to inform the public about the candidates and ensure a smooth election. John Abejuro, head of the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel)-Albay, said the task force will provide an overview of the candidate's agenda through forums and other related activities. The body is composed of the Philippine National Police, Commission on Elections, Department of Interior and Local Government, Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, Namfrel, Department of Education, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Kabalikat Civicom, Department of Justice and Philippine Information Agency.

Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Illegal recruiter nabbed

LEGAZPI CITY—National Bureau of Investigation men on Monday arrested a woman applying for a clearance after she was found to have a warrant of arrest for illegal recruitment and three counts of estafa. Elaine Estareja, resident of Barangay Payawon, Gubat, Sorsogon, was supposed to get a clearance for her travel to Bahamas. She filed her application for NBI clearance on March 9 but because of doubtful records, the NBI asked her to return after a week. On her return, the NBI arrested Estareja. She denied the accusations.

Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Dad's house fired at

STO. TOMAS, Batangas—The house of town councilor Aminios Silva in Barangay Poblacion 4 here was peppered with bullets at 1 a.m. on Wednesday. No one was hurt in the incident. Police said two armed men aboard a black Yamaha motorcycle opened fire at Aminios' residence. They theorized that the shooting was election related. Aminios, 41, is seeking reelection in this May polls. Sto. Tomas police found 27 empty slugs of .9mm caliber pistol and several deformed slugs on the walls of Silva's house. Provincial director Sr. Supt. Rodolfo Magtibay said Sto. Tomas police investigators are now hunting the suspects.

Mel Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

RAY ZAMBRANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

PANDAN FESTIVAL
Contingents from all parts of Pangasinan show their wares in front of the Mapandan municipal hall during the town's second Pandan Festival Friday.

Suspect in Mindoro killings nabbed

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—After almost a year after he was implicated in the killing of two militant leaders in Mindoro, a rebel returnee-turned-military agent was arrested by the regional intelligence unit of the Mimaropa police last week.

Mimaropa police director Chief Supt. Alex Lapinid said suspect Aniano Flores, 38, aka Ka Silver Alvarado, was arrested on March 18 at about 5 pm in Sitio Buyayao in Barangay San Roque, in an island off Bulalacao, Oriental Mindoro.

He said the former New People's Army (NPA) rebel had become the caretaker of Buyayao Island when he had gone hiding.

Militants pointed to Flores as the one behind the abduction and gruesome murder of human rights activist Eden Marcellana and peasant leader Eddie Gumanoy on April 21, 2003 in Naujan town.

Lapinid said intelligence chief Supt. Liberato Elemos, together with other members of the military intelligence group, headed the raid on Flores' safehouse. He said the suspect was arrested on the strength of five warrants of arrest. Three of those warrants, he said, recommended no bail.

Also found in Flores' house was an M16 rifle and several two rifle grenades and six fully loaded magazines.

Police disclosed that the firearm belonged to a government troop which was lost during an encounter with NPAs in Abra de Ilog, Mindoro Occidental on March 6, 1998.

Lapinid said the arrest of Flores would "definitely end accusations that the police is conniving with criminal elements in the killing of militant leaders in the island."

"Once and for all, I would like to say that we are only doing our job and we have nothing to do with the killings in the province as alleged by some people. We are running after people who are hiding from the arms of law," Lapinid told the INQUIRER.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said his group was elated with the news and congratulated Lapinid and the Mindoro police. But he said he feared that the Army's 204th Brigade in Naujan would intervene in the trial of Flores.

Flores, who is now jailed in the Roxas jail, was one of the rebel returnees presented to President Macapagal Arroyo on Oct. 2, 2001 in Gloria town. Since then, Ocampo said, the suspect worked as "hitman" for the military.

"This is definitely a good development regarding the criminal case we filed against Flores and some elements of the military in Naujan. But I hope the police would not let the military take custody of the suspect," Ocampo said in a phone interview. "This could be a true test for the Mindoro police to uphold truth and justice."

Ocampo said Oriental Mindoro police chief Senior. Supt. Voltaire Calzado had assured him not to let the military or other government agencies to scuttle the case against Flores.

Lapinid, however, clarified that the court, not the police, has responsibility over Flores.

"It's up to the court to decide Flores' custody. The ball is now in their hands, not ours," he said.

Keep cool, tollways exec tells motorists going up North this Holy Week

By Martin P. Marfil

MAKE sure that your car's cooling system is working. Check your brakes and brake lights. Be safety conscious. And most of all, keep cool.

The pieces of advise were is sued yesterday by Renato Bañares, vice president of the Lopez-owned Manila North Tollways Corp., as Holy Week neared.

According to Bañares, the main problems usually encountered during this period are vehicles that break down in the middle of the road and accidents that result in logjams.

Another problem is the presence of ambulant vendors, who usually show up when motorists are stuck in one area.

To ensure the smooth flow of vehicles, Bañares said they have coordinated with the Toll Regulatory Board, Philippine National Construction Corp., Project Contractors Leighton Contractors Asia Ltd. and government agencies to deploy 70 enforcers and emergency workers and their equipment along the road.

If cars stall or accidents occur, Bañares said during a press conference yesterday that they expect their personnel to arrive at the scene within 15 to 20 minutes.

Stalled vehicles or those involved in accidents will be towed to the side of the road for free but owners will have to pay if it is to be towed to a place where they want it stored.

Traffic flow

Bañares also said they plan to deploy ambulant tellers to speed up the toll fee collection and coordinate with police to speed up the flow of traffic right outside exits, where heavy traffic usually occurs.

He said his firm expects the volume of traffic to build up starting Holy Wednesday up to Holy Thursday, level off and then build up again Sunday up to Monday morning.

With the expected influx, the volume of traffic is projected to overshoot the usual 190,000 vehicles which use the road daily.

To keep the traffic flowing, the NMTC official said at least three lanes—on both sides—will be made available to motorists while road work from Balintawak to the Valenzuela exit would stopped for the period.

Bañares also said that construction of the southbound lanes from San Fernando to Candaba would be rushed for completion by Holy Week.

Counterflow would also be implemented together with the traditional "Lakbay Alalay program" of various groups to assist motorists, he added.

The $371-million project is already 70 to 75 percent complete, the official said.

Comelec asks Cebu town mayor to yield post to real winner

CEBU CITY—The Commission on Elections first division has ordered Mayor Lety Mancio of Madridejos town, Cebu to vacate her post, less than two months before the elections.

In a ruling released Thursday, the Comelec told Mancio to yield the post to Zenaida Salazar who was the real winner in the 2001 elections.

The order was signed by Comelec commissioners Rufino Javier, Resurreccion Borra and Virgilio Garcillano.

Mancio refused to step down and vowed to contest the Comelec decision until it reaches the Supreme Court. She immediately filed a motion for reconsideration.

"Of course, I will not step down. That (the Comelec ruling) is not yet final. I will fight it until the end," she said in Cebuano.

Mancio is running for reelection in the May elections against former Madridejos Mayor Doroteo Salazar, the husband of Zenaida Salazar. Both are supporting the bid of President Macapagal-Arroyo for a full-six year term.

In a decision, the Comelec first division said Salazar won by a margin of 48 votes—5,294 votes as compared to Mancio's 5,246 from 71 precincts.

The poll body also reversed the decision of Regional Trial Court that upheld Mancio's proclamation and junked Salazar's election protest for lack of merit. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Isabela radio stations opened, closed after 5 hours

CAUAYAN CITY—The two radio stations ordered closed by the city government in February were opened on Wednesday but were forced to go off air after five hours when city government personnel cut off their power supply.

The city government closed the dzNC Bombo Radyo-Cauayan and its sister station, dwIT-FM, for the non-renewal of its business permits.

Bombo Radyo officials sued the city government before the Commission on Elections for supposedly violating election laws when local officials closed the stations in February. They said the city government violated a rule that no business franchises or permits would be revoked within the election period.

The Comelec on March 23 ordered a status quo that paved the way for the resumption of operations of the stations but the city government questioned the Comelec's authority to rule on the issue.

The order was signed by Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos and Commissioners Rufino Javier, Resurreccion Borra, Virgilio Garcillano, Mehol Sadain, Florentino Tuazon Jr. and Manuel Barcelona Jr.

"In order not to render the issues raised in the petition moot and academic, the status quo ante order is hereby issued directing the parties to maintain the status prevailing before Feb. 17, 2004," the order said.

It allowed the radio stations to operate "until further orders from the commission."

But city administrator Felicisimo Meer and a team from the city government and the police went to the stations on Wednesday and enforced the closure order. Electricians accompanying the team cut off the power supply of the stations.

Charmy Sabigan, Bombo Radyo station manager, assailed city officials for ignoring the Comelec order.

"They did not heed the Comelec order. They have a different interpretation of the law," Sabigan said.

Mayor Caesar Dy, however, said he did not violate any election rule because he did not renew the business permits of the stations.

"It is ridiculous. Why should I be liable? I did not violate any election laws," Dy said.

He said he would ask his lawyers to question the Comelec's authority to issue a status quo order. The city government, he added, is seeking a legal opinion to clarify the Comelec's jurisdiction over the dispute.

Dy on Wednesday said the city government had not received a copy of the Comelec order.

The stations' officials and other groups in the province earlier claimed that politics was involved in the stations' closure. They claimed that the Dy family was behind the move because the stations were critical of some of the family members.

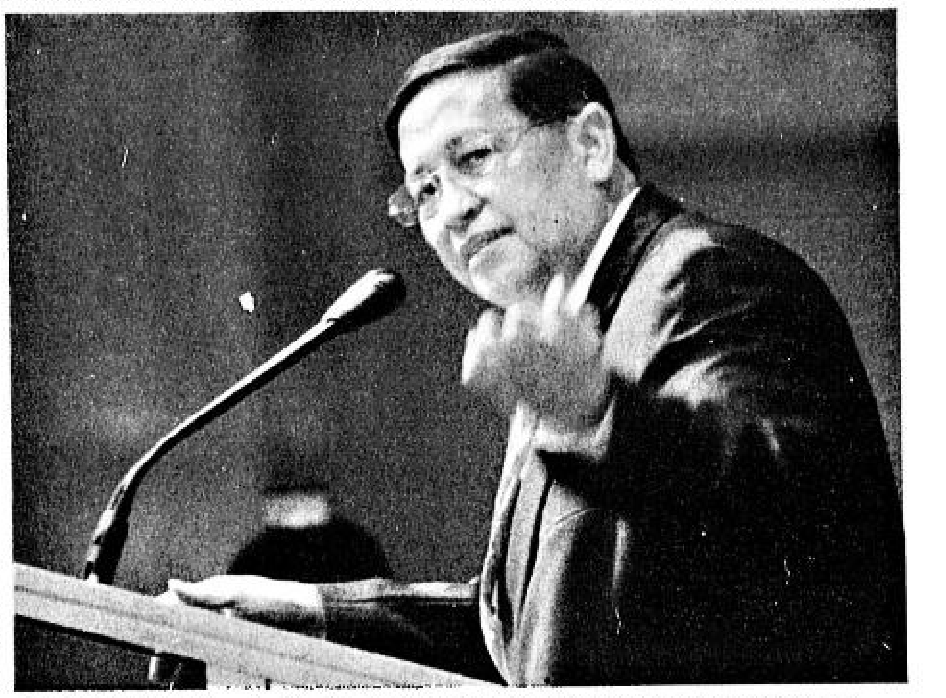
But members of the Dy family had denied involvement in the closure.

Isabela Rep. Faustino Dy III said it was unfair for the Dy family to be dragged into the issue. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

THE CHARM OFFENSIVE

ELECTION 2004

BARANGAY ISABEL, LEYTE: Flora is one of his favorite non-political subjects. He has at least 50 floral shirts. ERIK ARAZAS



MAKATI CITY: Addressing the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines, Roco does away with his signature shirts. JESS YUSON

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY: Shoeshine man Jose Torno at the Carmen market dusts off Roco's shoes, after the candidate figured in a lot of brisk walking which he does whenever he can't go to the gym. ERIK ARAZAS

ERIK ARAZAS

NAGA CITY: The candidate usually sings the same Boholano song which he said he learned while courting his wife, Sonia, who's from Bohol.

'Who says I'm arrogant? I have no bodyguards'

From page A1

"floral shirts in other colors, I have at least 50."

Like a rock star

The driver of the media van was in awe of the way "RSR" walked. "Like a rock star," he said, "just a little too fast." Now the third motorcade of the day was entering Talomo. Roco's SUV, always at the head of Alyansa motorcades, suddenly pulled over. *"Bababa! Maglalakad* (he's getting off to walk!)," the driver called out to another vehicle. A cloud of dust rose over the motorcade, from brakes simultaneously applied.

Roco and his running mate Hermie Aquino led the candidates in working the crowd on either side of the unpaved road. There was no resistance from the residents, although they seemed to have been caught by surprise.

All in all, the group stayed only a half hour, walking all the while and pumping flesh. "Twelve minutes of brisk walking is equivalent to one kilometer," the "rock star," who embarked on a fitness routine months before announcing his candidacy, would say later. "I know, because that's what I do when I can't go to the gym for a long stretch of time."

Banana-cue sold out

Among the happiest Talomo residents as a result of Alyansa's visit was the vendor of *ginanggang*, Davao's distinctive, precision-grilled version of the banana-cue. The merienda fare sold out in that memorable half-hour. Curiously enough, "RSR," who is often curious about street food, did not notice.

The newsmen had disappeared at this point, gone to file their stories, and then possibly to sneak in some rest—no, a lot of rest—before the start of the following day, at 3 a.m.

One television reporter couldn't hide his boredom earlier. "This sortie is so ... quiet!" he said. "They really should be making a lot more noise—like FPJ (Fernando Poe Jr.) and GMA (President Macapagal-Arroyo)."

Two more pit stops, then on to the major event, the "Big Rally" in Bansalan.

But can they vote?

"Did you see that group earlier who told me, 'FPJ kami'?" Roco asked Inday Santiago—an old and fast friend, and coordinator of the Mindanao campaign—on the way there. "*Napatawa ako* (I ended up laughing) because I did not feel any animosity. And they laughed with me! At least, *'di ako binato ng kamatis, tulad nina* Gloria *at* (Speaker Jose) De Venecia."

Schoolchildren waiting at a street-corner called out, "Roco-Aquino!" This made RSR happy. "They are the focus of my goals," he said.

A tentative voice in the vehicle protested, "But they can't vote."

"Oh, but they each have two parents," Roco replied, "and aunts and uncles. What kind of adults would ignore a child who tries to convince them about a political candidate? A child's endorsement is priceless. Remember, the power of children is mentioned even in the Bible. All my life, whenever I campaign, I go to the children."

'Hope senators'

He calls his seven senatorial bets "Hope Senators." "They have become such a tightly knit group," he said, "that we don't think we should take in even just one more."

To be sure, each one in the slate, with the possible exception of Hermie Aquino, a former congressman and Tarlac vice governor, has learned a thing or two from RSR on the campaign trail, just as Inday Santiago did one presidential election ago.

She recounts: "He taught me how to wave to people, especially during a motorcade, when we were standing side by side. He said, 'Always use the arm farthest from me, so they see our faces.' Also, he said to try and never mention the opponents' name."

Thus, in the speeches of the Hope Senators, Poe's running mate Loren Legarda is "*yung babaeng palipat-lipat at walang prinsipyo* (the woman who goes here and there and has no principles," and Noli de Castro is "Mr. Paalam, Bayan."

Dinner before the rally was at a roadside eatery, in full view of pedestrians and passing buses. People milled just outside the restaurant. Children chanted "Roco! Aquino!" so spiritedly, RSR stepped out to dance to the beat and give them high fives.

The much awaited "Big Rally" in the hometown of senatorial bet Jay Sonza wasn't so big, it turned out. The speakers were undaunted, and delivered better performances than they did in the mini-rally earlier, even if they said essentially the same things. Again except for Aquino, who actually said this time, *"Pakisingit po ako sa inyong balota* (please find space for my name in your ballot); and Bong Coo, in her signature shirt designed like the Philippine flag, who ended her spiel with *"Babae po ako!"*

She would explain the next day: "I was advised to court the women's vote." She would rather emphasize the unusual composition of her immediate family—Muslim and Christians in one household—"but sometimes it doesn't come out right when I say it."

Edno Joson asked more than once, *"Pa'no na si Mang Pandoy, 'pag nanalo si Panday* (what happens to Mang Pandoy if Panday (Poe) wins)?"

Frank Chavez did another Elvis, "Blue Suede Shoes."

Roco sang the same Boholano love song which he said he learned while courting his wife.

'Being smart'

The next "Big Rally" the following night in Calinan town was definitely bigger. While the candidates did their thing, Inday Santiago was also seriously at work two street corners away, meeting with women "political officers" from 25 barangays.. Some had traveled two days to get there.

"This is our machinery," Inday said. "This is how we are doing things at ground level. This is what I call being smart."

And this is the woman who defied the Chinese government to mount a landmark women's conference in Beijing. She certainly knows about organization and prevailing against all odd.

Emerging from the rally, Roco spent a few minutes with his women leaders, by way of telling them that their efforts were deeply appreciated.

"That," he said on the ride back to Davao City, "is how we are going to protect our votes. The people will protect our votes."

With things looking rosy at the end of two days of very hard work, indeed, RSR was game for a quick Q&A:

Why do they say you are arrogant?

"To destroy me and the values I represent. That is clearly black propaganda. Who say this of me? They are the arrogant ones. They have arrogance of power-the worst kind, because they misuse power. This makes them paranoid, and this is why my detractors need bodyguards. I don't. Even in Manila, I have no bodyguards. I myself wonder how I am protected. The people around me seem to take it upon themselves to protect me."

Who are your advisers?

"This should be clear beforehand: Having advisers requires that you understand what the advisers are saying. (Edgardo) Angara was (Joseph) Estrada's adviser. Who is in jail, and who is not? Jose Pardo was also Estrada's adviser. Again, who is in jail, and who is not? But of course I have advisers. I listen to Ed Morato, formerly of the Asian Institute of Management, for economic matters; Nene (Wilfrida) Guevarra, former finance undersecretary; Jimmy Galvez Tan, former health secretary; Winnie Monsod; and Ramon Magsaysay Awardee Jess Robredo."

Are the women leaders, like the ones back in Calinan, enough to protect your votes?

"The youth sector, Aksyon Kabataan, is also organizing 350,000 precinct watchers. (Alyansa had a huge forum earlier in the day with students from four universities, at the Bolton campus of the University of Mindanao.) It's not as though we have no organization, like they say. You've seen how we work. We are organized. We don't have money, but the organization will protect us. Oh, I'm sure I can raise funds. However, the reforms that Alyansa is talking about starts with the campaign. Otherwise, how will the president reform society?"

What will your Cabinet look like?

"Young, aggressive, made of people who think out of the box. Jess Robredo will be there as head of Local Government. Jimmy Galvez-Tan will be there. I can mention only the two of them now."

The hunt for Colasa

"Now we can have chicken barbecue," Roco announced as his SUV bounded into Davao City limits. He addressed the driver: "Let's go where we went last night. Do you remember?

"Sir, there is another place," the driver said.

"Aren't we having the assessment meeting tonight?" the staff riding in front asked

"I'm off duty," RSR said, only half in jest. The whole group had been up since before sunrise.

The car swung into the driveway of "another place" called Dusk Till Dawn. *"Ayaw ko diyan* (not here)," the boss said. "Let's go to Colasa's."

Finally seeing the signage of the popular chicken place a few minutes later, RSR smiled broadly. *"Ayan, diyan* (this is it). And then we'll have some durian afterwards."

Postscript: What survey?

Departing for Manila the following morning, four Hope Senators, took the same shuttle from their hotel to the airport.

The conversation was animated.

Edno Joson: "The latest survey says Bong Revilla will be topnotcher."

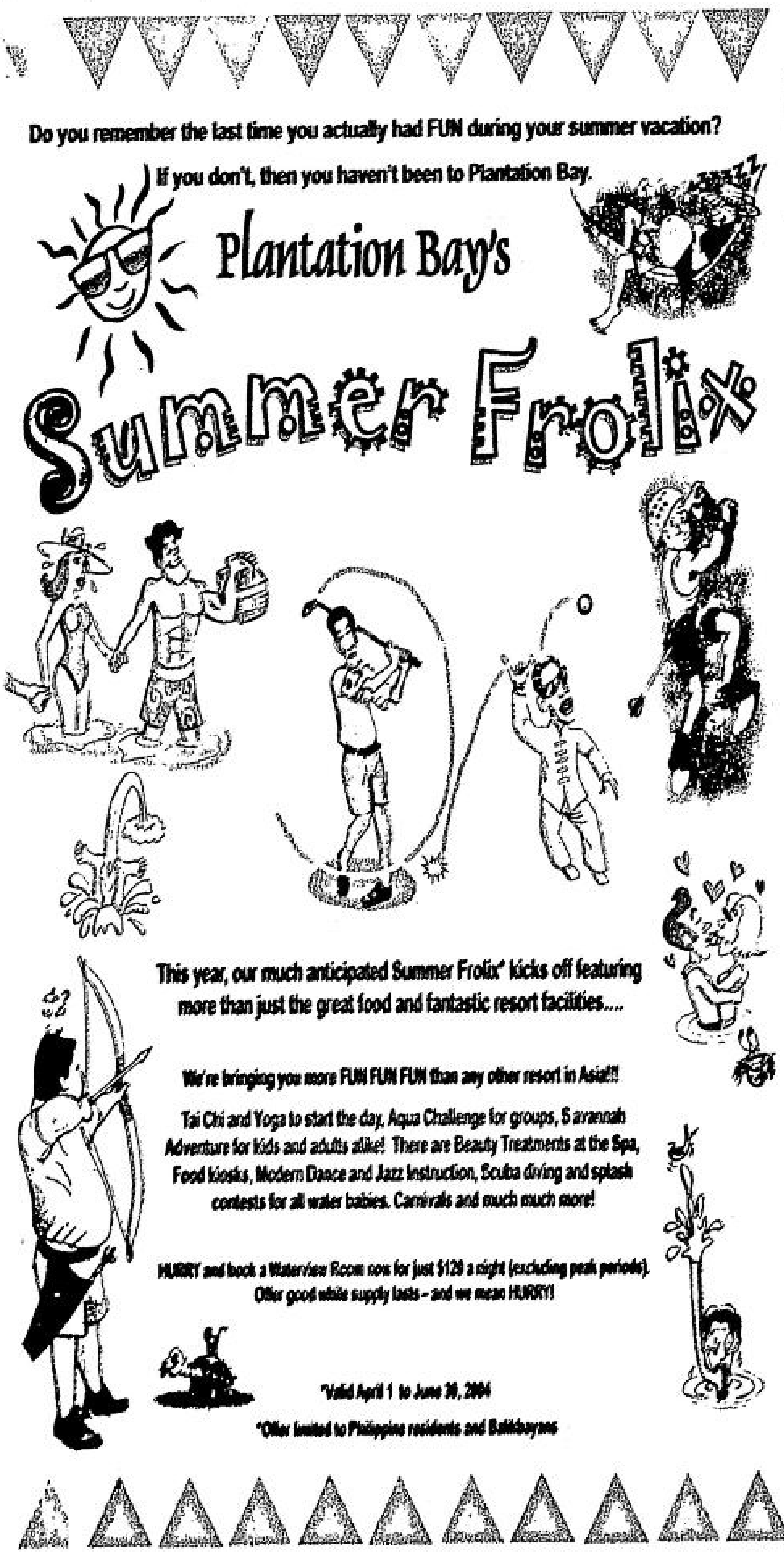
Gatmaytan (the group's comedian): "Wait for my own survey. It will be the most accurate-I've asked a geodetic engineer to do it."

Their energy is boundless.

Bong Coo: "Of course. I'm an athlete."

Gatmaytan (the blind lawyer): "Me, I sleep while I walk."

"Batas" Mauricio: "I just eat and eat. And I pray."



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METROBRIEFS

Cops in kidnap rap

TWO MEMBERS of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and 14 others have been charged for kidnapping a Filipino-Chinese woman in Manila on March 18. Charged were SPO4 Romeo Ayson, PO3 Clayton Patingan, Sebastian Magalipo, Edwin Castillo, Romeo Aruta, Jaime Tolevas, Isabelita Patingan, Lolita Monarez, Jose Albato, Alberto Culanag, Mary Ann Angcahan, Jullien Madrin, Janeth Patilona, Erick Pat-O, Clifftor Langeao and Pepe Bihag. *Tina Santos*

Driver charged

JEEPNEY driver Orcesio Simaco, 37, of Delpan Street, Manila, has been charged for the murder last March 24 of Isao Shiozawa, 42, of 4920-B Novaliches St., Barangay Olympia, Makati City. Simaco, who had driven one of Shiozawa's jeepneys, was tagged after police found fresh wounds on his forehead and right hand. He also had bloodied clothes. *Margaux Ortiz*

Widow dies in fire

WIDOW Leticia Atayde Co, 61, was killed, while fire brigade volunteer Patrick Lee sustained a laceration on his right middle finger when a 10-hour fire razed a building and several houses in Manila starting Friday night, destroying P3.2 million in property. Co was believed to have suffocated after being trapped inside Unit 1033 of Zosima Building in Sta. Cruz. *Leila Salaverria*

3 new priests

THE DIOCESE of Legazpi has been blessed with three new priests in the persons of Rev. Fr. Dante Samiñada Mejillano, Rev. Fr. Victor "Junvic" Biniza Diolata and Rev. Fr. Anthony "Jhonn" Consulta Riosa. They were ordained to the priesthood last March 27 at the St. Gregory Cathedral in Legazpi City by His Excellency, Most Rev. Sofronio A. Bancud, SSS, DD, the auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Cabanatuan.

Caloocan bets brace for violence

SMALL COMFORT
These children enjoy a cool splash along San Lazaro Street in Sta. Cruz, Manila, as the heat of summer and the uncertainties of a looming water shortage hit Metro Manila. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

THE ELECTION campaign in Caloocan City is becoming potentially explosive.

Asked about his expectations on the campaign and the upcoming polls, mayoralty candidate Macario Asistio Jr. said these would likely become violent.

Rep. Enrico Echiverri, who is running for mayor, told the INQUIRER that several men on board two cars hurled stones at his house at about 8:30 a.m. yesterday.

He said the stoning was meant to "scare" him and his supporters.

Later, Rep. Edgar Erice, who is also vying for the top local post, complained that some of his supporters were arrested for pasting posters on buildings despite the consent of the building owners.

He accused his political rivals of "resorting to harassment by using the force of the government."

On the other hand, Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo, whose wife Gigi is running for mayor, said that the bodyguards of their rivals had harassed their supporters.

In an updated assessment, the Northern Police District declared three big barangays in Caloocan: Bagong Barrio, Bagong Silang and Dagat-Dagatan, as areas of immediate concern.

The police noted the "intense political rivalry" between the candidates' supporters. Malonzo, Echiverri and Erice are former allies, while Malonzo and Assistio have been longtime rivals.

Assistio and Erice both vowed that their respective sides would not initiate violence.

Malonzo said elections in the city could become "*magulo* (chaotic)," but he said his administration was doing its best to maintain peace and order.

But Echiverri was unconvinced.

He said Malonzo, being the incumbent mayor, was in the position to harass rivals and that he could do everything to stay in power.

CANDIDATE'S SPEECHES

What was that again?

By Luige del Puerto

SHOULD voters believe everything candidates say?

In a speech before 3,000 people Thursday evening, Ernesto "Bibot" Domingo Jr., who is up against outgoing Mayor Benhur Abalos Jr. in the race for Congress, said the city should not boast of its P1.3-billion earnings last year because it also "incurred P800-million in debt."

The INQUIRER later asked him to expound on his assertion and Domingo clarified that he was referring to a "credit line" made available to the city.

When the INQUIRER pointed out the difference between "debt" that he used to criticize his rival with and "credit line," Domingo said, "They got a credit line but had not availed of it."

So, did he make a mistake in his speech? Only Domingo knows.

LTFRB, Piston on collision course

By Tina Santos

THE PAGKAKAISA ng mga Tsuper at Operator Nationwide (Piston) reiterated its plan to stage a nationwide strike starting tomorrow even as the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) stepped up threats to punish those who would join the mass action.

Piston president Mar Garvida said the group's 200,000 members would push through with their protest actions until the government grants their demands for a fare hike and a rollback in fuel prices.

But LTFRB Chair Maria Elena Bautista was also unflinching.

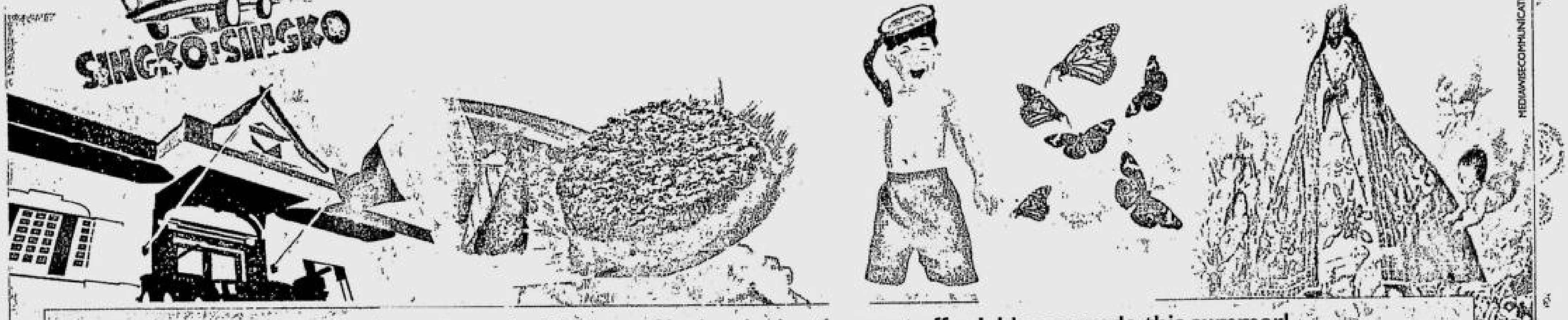
"Those who will participate in the strike would have to face the full force of the law," she said. And sanctions could include the revocation of their franchise.

Bautista explained that the revocation of franchise was clearly stated in the Condition of Franchise given to jeepney drivers and operators.

"The Condition of Franchise says transport groups are not allowed to abandon their routes, agitate other jeepney drivers or operators to join the mass action, and paralyze the transport system," she said.

Garvida and Medardo Roda, the group's honorary chair, responded by daring President Macapagal-Arroyo and Bautista to make good on their threat to cancel their franchise.

They added that they were only fighting for their rights.



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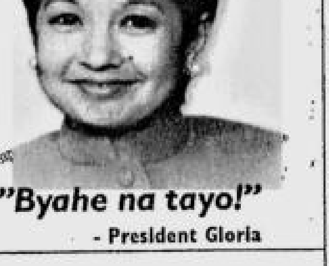

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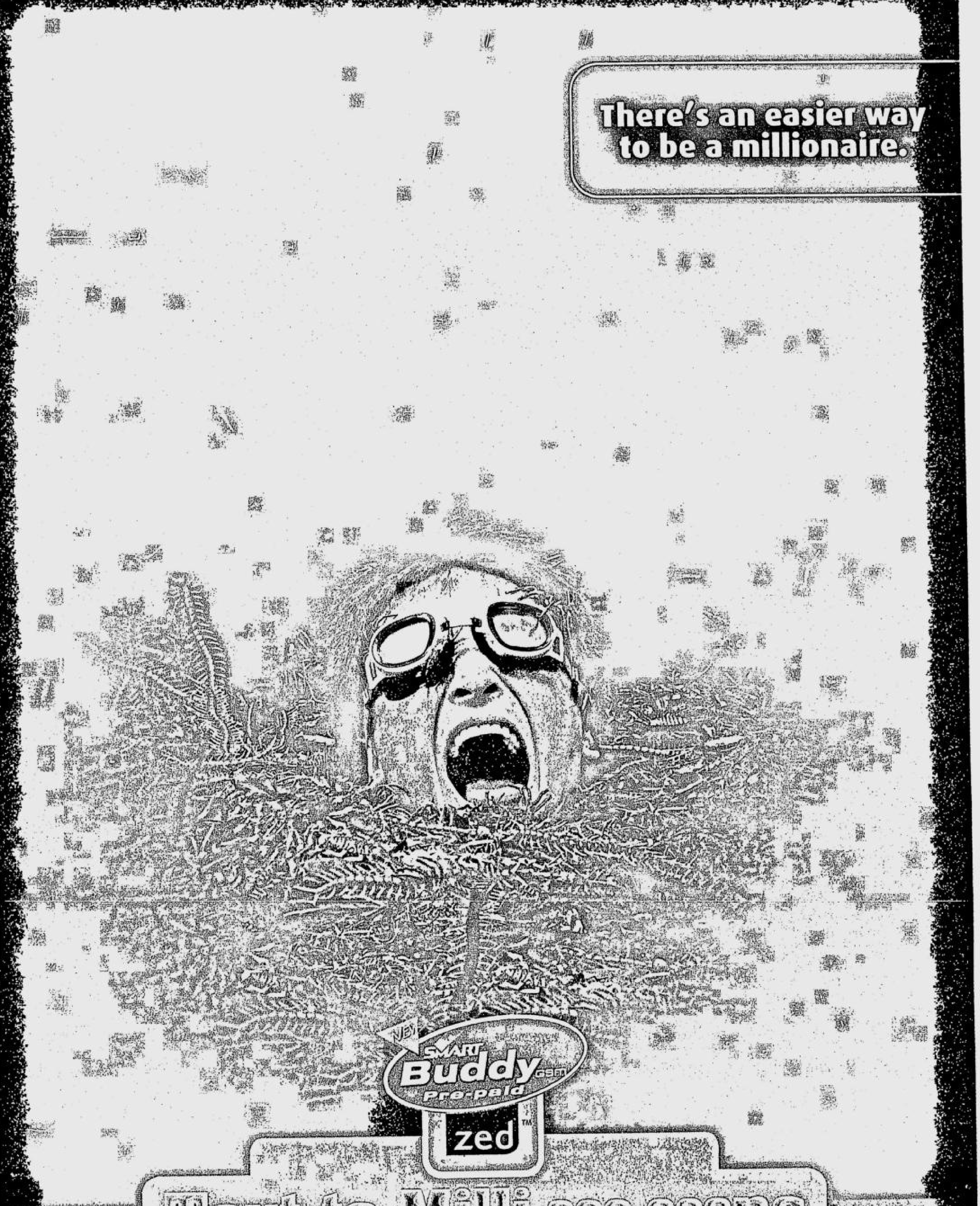

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Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Mangulat

BASKETBALL: NBA-Knicks vs Pistons; 8:30 a.m. (r-8 p.m.); Solar Sports—Vastly revamped. New York faces rugged Detroit.

Vintage NBA-Jack Ramsay; 11 a.m.; Solar Sports—Get to know more about the only coach to lead the Portland Trailblazers to the title.

NBA Greatest Games-Lakers vs Blazers, Game 4, 1977 Western Finals; 12 noon; Solar Sports—Portland, led by eccentric center Bill Walton, surprises powerhouse LA.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **Woods averts early exit** /A25

■ **Kobe, Shaquille take charge** /A27

■ **Ian Thorpe disqualified**/A28

■ **Serena returns** /A29

Hotdogs halt Express without Yap, Limpot

PUREFOODS' Paul Artadi tries to drive past FedEx's Mike Maddox in last night's PBA game won by the Hotdogs. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:10 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs San Miguel
6:30 p.m.—Shell vs Ginebra

By June Navarro

EDDIE Elisma recovered his deadly touch and powered Purefoods past FedEx, 106-92, last night in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference at the Makati Coliseum.

Elisma showed his old murderous form against his former college teammate Mike Maddox, scoring 36 points and pulling down 14 rebounds as the TJ Hotdogs notched their third win in seven games.

"I told him (Elisma) that he should score more and he responded to the challenge," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio, whose TJ Hotdogs face the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals in a road game in Tacloban City on Thursday.

Frustrated with his poor shooting in the past two games, Elisma made amends by nailing 15 of 23 attempts from the perimeter for a 65-percent clip.

Maddox, Elisma's frontline partner for three years at Georgia Tech in the US NCAA, proved his worth with 32 points and 13 rebounds but only Roger Yap played consistently among the local Express.

The 6-foot-8 Elisma's first 22 points gave Purefoods a 51-44 halftime spread and the Hotdogs were never threatened in the final half despite the absence of James Yap and Jun Limpot.

Yap is still recuperating from a sore back while Limpot rode the bench for the third straight game to rest a sprained ankle.

"It's a nice win considering that we lost three of our last four games by a margin of only three points. And we did it even without James and Jun," said Gregorio.

Paul Artadi registered a career-high 15 points and alternated splendidly with Rob Johnson in orchestrating the TJ Hotdogs' fluid offense.

Their superb playmaking in the second quarter allowed Elisma to get several good looks at the basket as the Hotdogs wiped out a 30-24 deficit in the first 12 minutes of play with a 27-14 run.

"Our second unit proved to be the key in the second quarter. From thereon, we protected our lead the rest of the way," said Gregorio, who also drew a good game from Peter June Simon before the halftime break.

Richard Yee pinched in for Limpot and had a career double-double of 10 points and 10 rebounds in 34 minutes of action.

Roger Yap finished with 21 points and Vergel Meneses added 13 for the Express, who absorbed their fifth defeat in six outings.

Scores:

First game:

PUREFOODS 106—Elisma 36, Artadi 15, Johnson 14, Simon 11, Yee 10, Raymundo 9, Sotto 6, Patrimonio 3, Castillo 2, Evangelista 0.

FEDEX 92—Maddox 32, Yap 21, Meneses 13, Ritualo 7, Ferriols 6, Arboleda 5, De Ocampo 3, Gonzales 2, Rodriguez 2, Ejercito 1, Bernardo 0, Billones 0.

Quarters: 24-30, 51-44, 76-65, 106-92.

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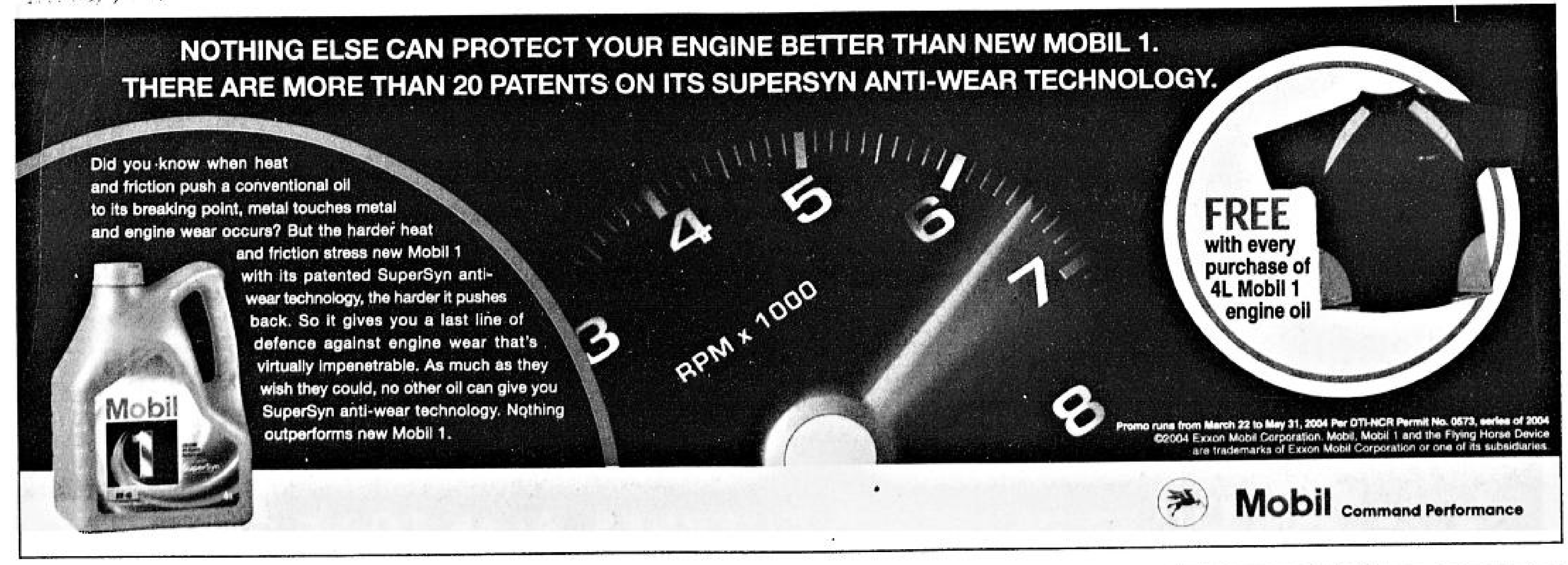

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UNITY CUP

Toyota-Letran debuts vs Viva

GAMES TODAY (*Makati Coliseum*)
1 p.m. —Opening rites
2 p.m. —Viva-FEU vs Toyota-Letran
4 p.m. —Sunkist-UST vs Lee Pipes-Ateneo

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TWO ROOKIE squads get a sampling of the strength of league old-timers when the PBL opens its 2004 season with the 2nd Unity Cup today at the Makati Coliseum.

Debuting Toyota Otis, made up of the core of NCAA champion Letran, collides with an intact Viva Mineral Water-FEU in the opening match at 2 p.m. following the 1 p.m. inaugural rites.

Lee Pipes-Ateneo will also make its maiden appearance in the league, tackling Sunkist-UST in the 4 p.m. encounter featuring UAAP contenders.

But focus will be on the Knights being handled by Louie Alas.

"This is a complete team we are talking about," said Alas, referring to his wards who, last year, defied the odds by clinching the NCAA title despite being a relatively young and inexperienced team.

"With last year's championship, we were able to get our confidence going. Now we also have offense, defense and the experience of playing together for one full year," Alas added.

The Water Force, however, remain a formidable force as they survived the exodus of players to the pro league during the pre-season.

Viva will still have UAAP 2003 finals MVP Arwind Santos, Dennis Miranda, RJ Rizada, Gerard Jones, Mark Isip and Cesar Catli, who all played pivotal roles in FEU's triumphant season last year. Cebu find Neil Raneses, 6-foot-4, will also join the lineup having been picked No. 1 overall.

Alas will be banking on Ronjay Enrile, formerly of Montaña and main man of the Knights, as well as veteran Billy Moody.

LA Tenorio, Larry Fonacier and Paolo Bugia will be at the forefront of Lee Pipe.

Sunkist, with heart and soul Alex Compton a doubtful starter due to a knee injury incurred during the pre-season, will rely on Jemal Vizcarra, Emerson Oreta and Derek Hubalde.

GABBY Lopez (left), chair of ABS-CBN, PBL chair Dioceldo Sy (middle) and Commissioner Chino Trinidad display the PBL commemorative jersey after the signing of the memorandum of agreement making Studio 23 the league's coveror for the next three years on Thursday. The signing was held at the ELJ Building inside the ABS-CBN compound.

cut & clip

GALING PILIPINO MOVEMENT (GPM) is a non-profit private sector initiative of citizens committed to recognize, affirm and propagate what is good and excellent about being PILIPINO to develop a culture of excellence and a commendable sense of national pride as a value-centered foundation for nation-building. *Itaguyod natin ang Galing ng Pilipino!*

April-May 2004 Calendar of Events

NATURAL FARMING SEMINAR
8am to 5pm, Saturday, **April 17, 2004**
Chowking-Pioneer, Mandaluyong City

BABUYAN NA HINDI AMOY BABOY!

Innovative Galing Pilipino seminar conducted by Mr. Andry Lim. Attend this seminar and find out how to raise pigs...***WALANG HUGAS, WALANG LIGO, WALANG BAHO!*** Learn how to grow ***CHEMICAL-FREE VEGETABLES AND FRUITS***. And know how to make concoctions using natural ingredients found in your backyard.

Seminar Fee: P500.00 for GPM members, P1,000.00 for non-members

Galing Housekeeping Seminar
Hosted by Victoria Group of Companies
8am to 5pm, Monday, **April 19, 2004**
I-PEX Training Center,
Hotel Victoria de Malate, Manila

GPM's eco-agro tourism program, BISITA PILIPINAS, will enlist private homes, preferably ancestral houses, whose owners and caretakers are willing to participate in the development of a local bed & breakfast homestay program. Learn the techniques of quality housekeeping... find out how to make beds ala hotel style... know the proper use of cleaning aids... AND MORE! A well-kept house speaks of a well-run home.

Seminar Fee: P100.00 for GPM Members, P200.00 for non-members

KAPIHAN

GP KAPIHAN
8am to 11am, Saturday, **April 24, 2004**
Chowking-Pioneer, Mandaluyong City

This monthly forum presents solutions to current and relevant issues concerning various sectors through inspirational sharing by Galing Pilipino role models. The GP Kapihan aims to encourage attendees to do the same and become significant individuals and contributors to a better society.

This kapihan features "***BILIB AKO SA GALING MO!***", part of GPM's I-Gilas (Ilabas ang Gilas) campaign. We have invited ordinary Pilipinos who did extraordinary deeds which make them "Everyday Heroes". Join us! Be inspired and relive the Pilipino spirit in you as we hear these 'heroes' speak!

GPM will present our own I-GILAS awardees. Hear their testimonies.... know how it feels to be awarded an I-GILAS citation... Know how empowering it is to award one!

FREE BRUNCH! Hosted by Chowking

GP YOUTH KAPIHAN
8am to 11am. Saturday, **May 8, 2004**
Chowking-Pioneer, Mandaluyong City

GPM believes that today's 18-30 year olds will be the driving force that will enable transformation into a Galing Pilipino generation.

This month's topic: ***"GALING SPORTS, GALING HEALTH"*** will feature cool Pinoy athletes who excel in their chosen fields. Get to know their workout routines, diet programs, and how they keep themselves fit. Find out what are the cool things to do this summer. ***'Be Cool, Be In, Be Galing'*** this summer!

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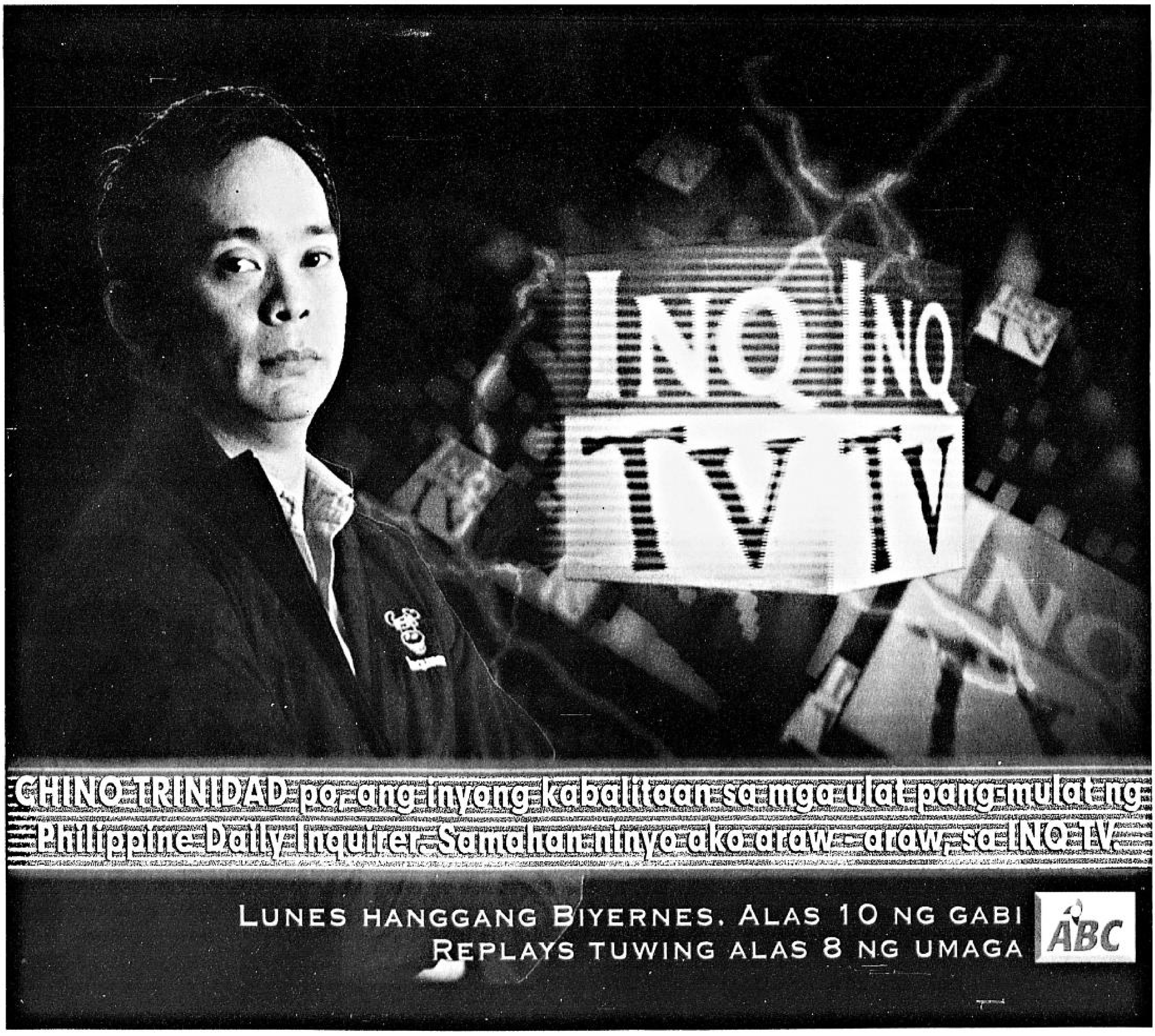
For GPM membership particulars, call GPM Foundation Inc. at (02)633-1089 or (02)631-3932 or log on to www.galingpilipino.com



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REPLAYS TUWING ALAS 8 NG UMAGA
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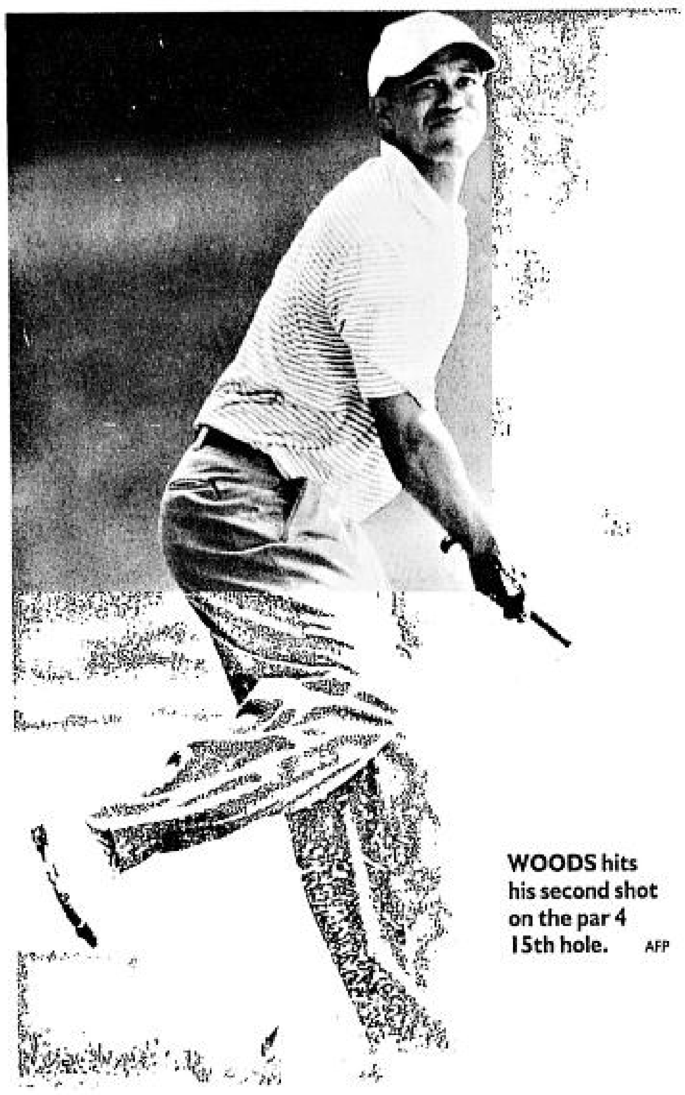
PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP

Woods averts early exit



WOODS hits his second shot on the par 4 15th hole. AFP

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida—Tiger Woods needed only three holes to take the suspense out of making his 120th consecutive cut on Friday at The Players Championship.

He'll need all 36 holes over the final two days to catch up to Kevin Sutherland and Jerry Kelly.

Sutherland holed an 80-foot bunker shot on his way to a 3-under 69 for his first 36-hole lead in eight years. Kelly joined him with a 66, a mixture of short birdie putts and a scrappy short game on the TPC at Sawgrass.

They were at 9-under 135, facing a tough test on the weekend and a leaderboard littered with big names.

Ernie Els (69) and Adam Scott (72) were two shots back. Vijay Singh (68) and Padraig Harrington (70) were right behind them. Phil Mickelson (69) made par despite driving into the water on No. 18 and was only four shots off the lead.

The best news for Woods is that his 69 was good enough for a tee time on Saturday.

Starting the day at 3 over and in 108th place, Woods played with purpose. He hit a 5-iron shot from 208 yards that dropped and stopped 10 feet from the hole for eagle on the par-5 11th (his second hole), then followed that with a wedge into 10 feet for birdie.

Woods went up 64 spots into a tie for 44th, but wasn't entirely pleased. He never gained another shot on the lead for the rest of the round, and wound up at even-par 144.

"I was trying to shoot 66," Woods said. "I thought 3 under would put me right where I needed to be. Now, I need to post a good, solid number to put myself to where I have a chance Sunday afternoon."

The cut was at 146, so Woods had two shots to spare.

He certainly got his share of breaks along the way, as did Kelly, Scott and other late starters.

A week of sunshine finally gave way to clouds and rain right when Woods took the long walk over to the 17th tee to face the island green. He hit land this time, and negotiated 60 feet, three breaks and one big ridge in two putts.

Sawgrass was no pushover, but the rain helped soften the yellow sheen on greens that had been getting firm.

"When we got to No. 10 and I saw how crusty that green was, I thought we were in for a tough day," Kelly said.

Woods picked up his only birdie on his second nine when a chip from deep rough rammed into the flagstick and spun around the hole; otherwise, it would have rolled as much as 15 feet.

Kelly, who has played bogey-free for two days, made his own breaks.

He made five birdies inside 5 feet—birdies on both par 3s on the back nine—and holed a 35-footer on No. 5. Then, it was a matter of hanging on.

Kelly saved par from deep rough just off the sixth green with what he called a "downhill, buried, bump-and-run, up-and-down"—otherwise known as an outstanding chip that just hopped out of the thick grass and rolled to 4 feet.

"The round-saver," he said.

Sutherland can relate. He drove into rough so deep on No. 14 that he had a hard time even identifying his ball. He wasn't sure he could advance it 15 yards, but it came out hot, through the fairway, into a bunker and behind a tree.

He wound up holing a 12-foot putt for bogey.

"That was huge," he said. "Making that putt was like making a birdie putt as far as momentum goes." *AP*

Mendoza, 2 other generals lead NGAP nominees

By Jong Arcano

TRANSPORTATION and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza and two other retired military generals are among the 19 nominees received by the nomination and election committee of the National Golf Association of the Philippines for its biennial elections on April 26.

Mendoza was nominated by Aguinaldo and Mt. Malarayat while Roberto Sabularse (Villamor) and Roberto Santiago (Aguinaldo) were named by clubs where they sit as general managers.

Most of the incumbent officers were also nominated. They are Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita (Villamor/Aguinaldo/Navy), Rod Feliciano (Valley), Luisito Fernandez (Navy/Villamor), Alice Andrada (Alabang/Riviera/Iligan/Pueblo de Oro), Danny Pizarro (Navy/Villamor/Riviera), Jun Galindez (Alabang), Andy Dumlao (Eagle Ridge), Benny Gopez (Aguinaldo/Riviera), Vicente Santos (Royale Tagaytay) and Anthony Sasin (Davao/Apo).

The others on the list are Tommy Manotoc (Calatagan), Iggy Clavecilla (Alabang), Federico Agcaoili (Baguio) and Alex Montelibano (Negros).

Meanwhile, the so-called Dumlao bloc of the NGAP may not be able to join the election following the decision of Sta. Lucia clubs to withdraw their nominations.

INQUIRER sources said that Sta. Lucia's family of golf clubs, which is backing Dumlao, is no longer keen on renewing its memberships with the NGAP.

Nominees identified with the group of Dumlao like Clavecilla and Montelibano are also set to waive their nominations.

It remains to be known whether Manotoc, said to be keen on the presidency of the NGAP, and Yulo are following suit.

Meanwhile, Frankie Miñoza needed a big rally from a horrendous front nine to salvage a five-over-par 76 that sent him down to 14th spot in the Token Homemate Cup in Nagoya, Japan.

After going nine over in his first 10 holes, the 44-year-old Miñoza carded two birdies and an eagle on his last eight to keep himself in the hunt with a 217 total for 54 holes.

Miñoza was just six strokes behind solo leader Korean Charlie Wi, whose 70-211 gave him a one-stroke lead over Hiroyuki Fujita (74).

adidas Streetball 04 registration

The quest for the country's representatives to the 5th Asian Streetball Finals blasts off with the screening of applicants on April 12-16 at the adidas brand store Ali Mall at the Araneta Center. The NCR eliminations will be held at the parking lot of SM Megamall on April 17-18.

"It's all systems go for this year's adidas Streetball challenge, we enjoin everyone to come and see the countrys' most awaited amateur streetball spectacle. For this year's participants , adidas Philippines and Globe Gentext promises them good competition and a lot of fun" said Angelica Suiza adidas Philippines marketing director.

Winners in the girls and seniors divisions will represent the country in the 5th Asian Streetball at Seoul Korea this October.

For interested parties call team ventures at 4009745/ 5225953.

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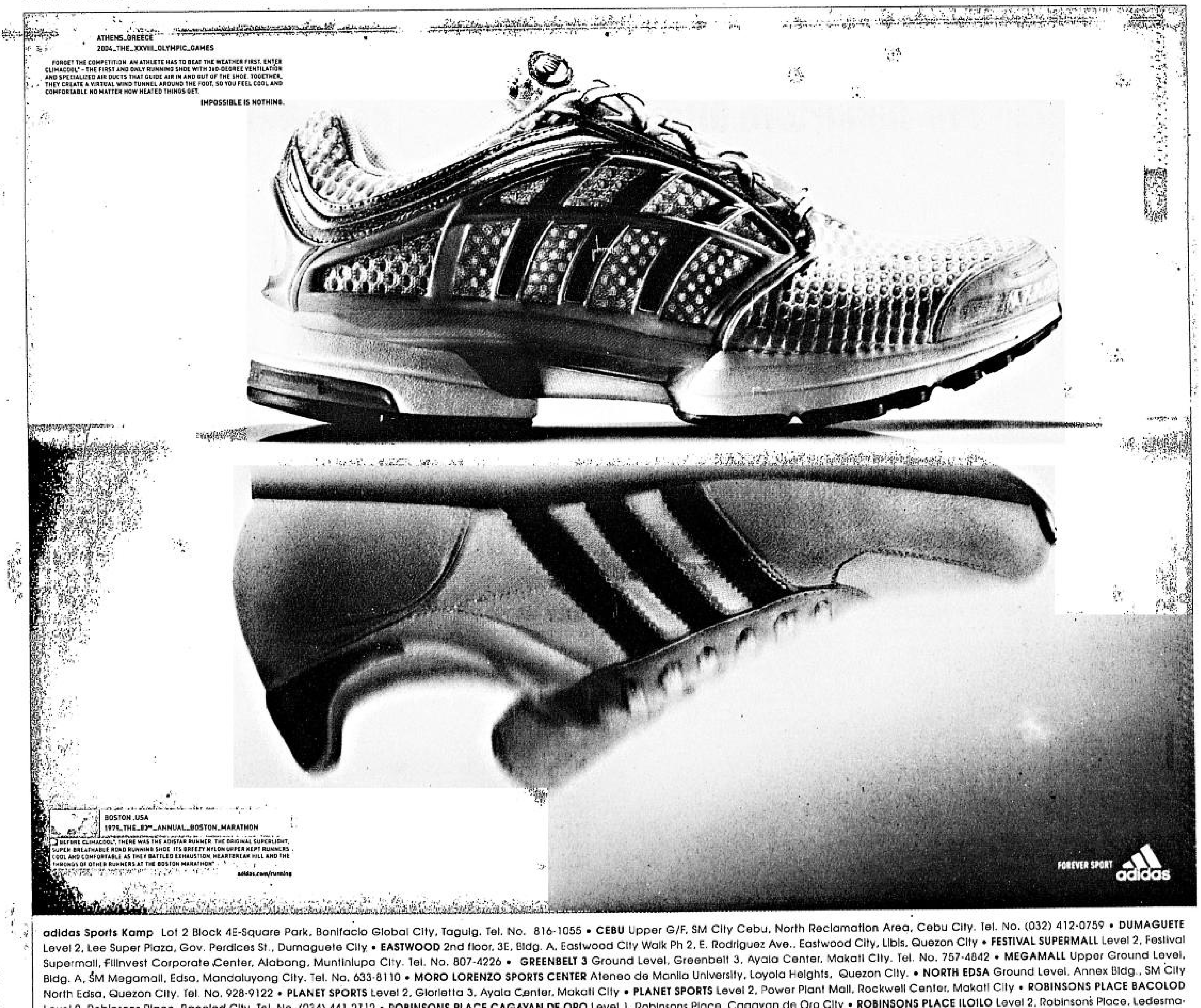

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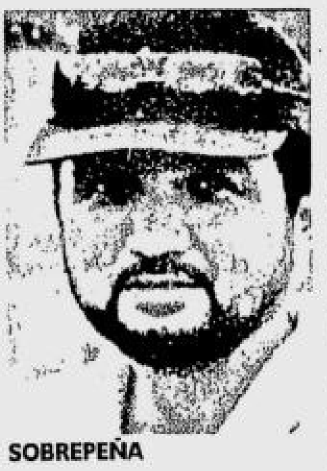
288 TEAMS

₱5-M Southwoods Invt'l set

JUNG tees off on No. 10. AP



SOBREPEÑA

WITH A prize package worth a whopping P5 million and a record 288 teams in the entry roster, next week's 2004 Southwoods Invitational golf tournament puts an exclamation point to the busy season of member-guest tournaments of exclusive clubs in the country.

A multi-million hole-in-one bonanza consisting of a brand new car, an eight-day, seven-night Mexican-Riviera Cruise for two, appliances, an eye laser surgery, a Bangkok holiday, a golf set and a signature watch will be up for grabs.

And if nobody scores an ace at the par-3s of the Masters and Legends courses during the four-day Invitational bash from Thursday (April 1) to Sunday (April 4), all of these fabulous prizes will be raffled off in the awards ceremony.

Globe Platinum is the main sponsor for the event. Mitsubishi Motors/Diamond Motors, Thai Airways, Royal Caribbean International, Northwest Airlines, Wilson Sports, Samsung, Lucerne and American Eye Center are the hole-in-one sponsors.

The hole sponsors are TM Shipping, Saud Beach Resort, Evergreen, Miramar Tuna Belly, Britesmile, Nestlé, Vein Care Clinic, Pink Patio Resort Boracay, Figaro, Hotshots, Camp John Hay Dev't Co., Philippine Wine Merchant, Club Leisure Management Corp., Splash Island, Oakley, Caramba, Starmaker and Boysen.

"This is certainly the biggest Invitational we're staging and it's no wonder the full field of 288 teams was met long before the deadline set," said Manila Southwoods chair of the board Robert John Sobrepeña.

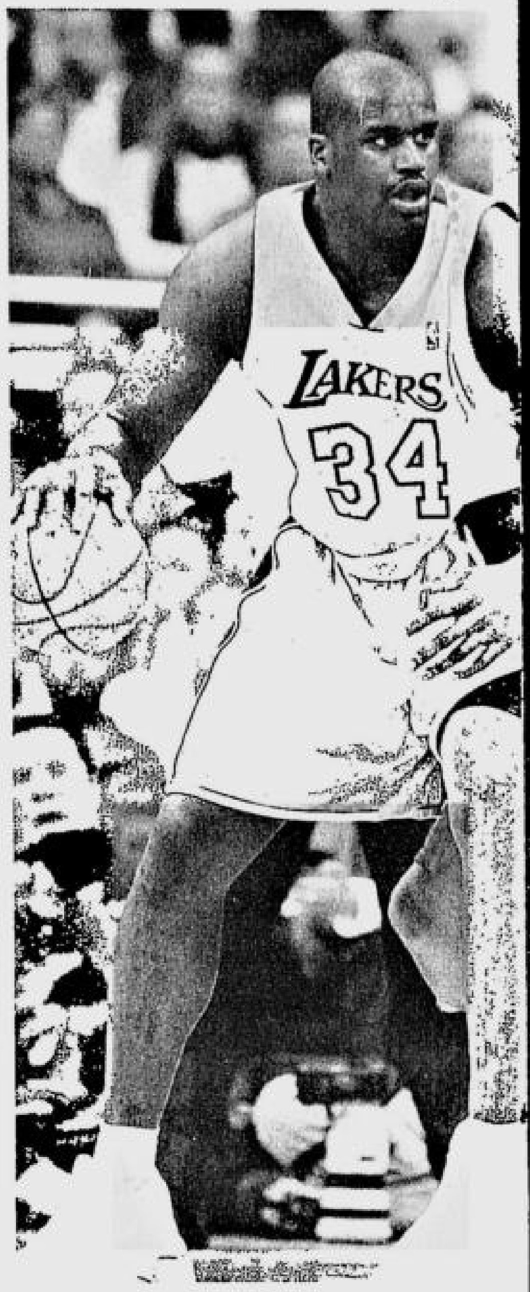
Sobrepeña lauded the generosity of the principal sponsors to have their prizes raffled off just in case no one gets lucky on the course, saying it will make the awards ceremony very exciting.

There will be 576 players who will get more than enough chances to bring home any of the hole-in-one packages: a Mitsubishi Lancer GLS automatic, a golfing holiday in Bangkok, the Riviera Cruise inclusive of Northwest Airlines business class tickets for two, a Wilson set and a Samsung appliance showcase.

Shotgun tee-off times are 7:30 a.m. at the Legends and 8 a.m at the Masters for the first three days and 11 a.m. at the Legends and 11:30 a.m. at the Masters on the final day.

To be disputed are the overall net won last year by Joseph Salao and his guest Eric Joson and gross awards and the top two places in Class A for 0-9 handicap, Class B for 10-15, Class C for 16-21 and Class D for 22-27. Members with handicaps of more than 28 will use the maximum handicap of 27 while guests will have a handicap limit of 21.

All participants will be entitled to a giveaway package of a signature Southwoods golf bag, umbrella and rain cover.



MINNESOTA'S Michael Olowokandi (right) holds hi

Pepper, Korean on top

RANCHO MIRAGE, California—Dottie Pepper hasn't been the same since the traditional winner's plunge here five years ago left her with walking pneumonia and strange green stuff in her ears.

That doesn't mean she doesn't want to do it again. And if she keeps playing like she did Friday in the Kraft Nabisco Championship, Pepper might get a chance.

Pepper, helping carry the torch for veteran players in a tournament where teenagers seem to shine, shot a 2-under 70 Friday under difficult conditions to tie Jung Yeon Lee at 6 under for the second-round lead in the first major championship of the year.

Annika Sorenstam didn't handle the conditions as well, hitting it into the water for a double bogey on the final hole for a 4-over 76 that seriously damaged any chances she has of winning all four LPGA majors this year.

The day was so long that Lee, whose best finish on tour is second, putted under palm trees framed by green lights on the 18th hole to finish her round of 69.

Jennifer Rosales recovered a bit with a 74 and was among those tied for 50th at 149. Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin shared 37th spot after a 71-147.

Petter and Lee were a stroke ahead of 17-year-old Aree Song, Karrie Webb and Wendy Doolan. Teen sensation Michelle Wie was three shots back.

Still, Wie managed an even-par round of 72 to go with an opening 69 that put her five shots better than at the same time last year when she first competed here as a 13-year-old. *AP*

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Holy Week Offerings*
(from April 7 to April 11, except April 9, Good Friday)

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- First aid assistance from Red Cross
- Roving motorist assistance from Metrowatch
- Towing assistance from 24 HEROES (Hotline: 817-9605)
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- Poblacion Lemery, Batangas
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- National Hi-way, Nasugbu, Batangas
- Lucena City
- Techno Park, Sta Rosa, Laguna
- Imus, Cavite
- Emilio Aguinaldo Hi-way, Dasmariñas, Cavite
- Dasmariñas (Rotunda), Cavite
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s ground against O'Neal. AP

NBA ROUNDUP

Kobe, Shaquille take charge as Lakers up win streak to 7

NEW YORK—Kobe Bryant scored 35 points and Shaquille O'Neal added 22 points and 18 rebounds to earn the streaking Los Angeles Lakers a 90-73 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves Friday.

Bolstered by having All-Stars Bryant, O'Neal, Karl Malone and Gary Payton back playing together, the Lakers have reeled off seven straight wins to move into the thick of the race for the overall Western Conference lead.

Los Angeles improved to 49-23 and exacted revenge on the Timberwolves (48-24), who had beaten the Lakers three times in as many tries this season, all by double-digit margins.

Coach Phil Jackson's team powered ahead of Minnesota into second place in the West, one and a half games back of Sacramento.

Los Angeles routed the Western Conference-leading Kings, 115-91, Wednesday and were every bit as good against the T-Wolves, taking a 78-54 lead after three quarters after leading by eight points at the half.

Latrell Sprewell's 19 points led the Timberwolves while Kevin Garnett chipped in with 18.

Payton scored seven points for the host Lakers and Malone four.

In Oakland, Erick Dampier amassed 19 points and 21 rebounds to lead the Golden State Warriors past the Washington Wizards, 99-78.

In Seattle, Ray Allen had 27 points as the SuperSonics cruised to a 102-86 win over the Denver Nuggets.

In Philadelphia, John Salmons scored 22 points as the 76ers won their third straight game, beating the Cleveland Cavaliers, 86-71.

In Orlando, Ron Artest notched 35 points to power the Indiana Pacers to a 107-92 victory over the Magic.

In New York, Stephon Marbury contributed 38 points and nine assists to lead the Knicks to a 108-101 win over the Toronto Raptors.

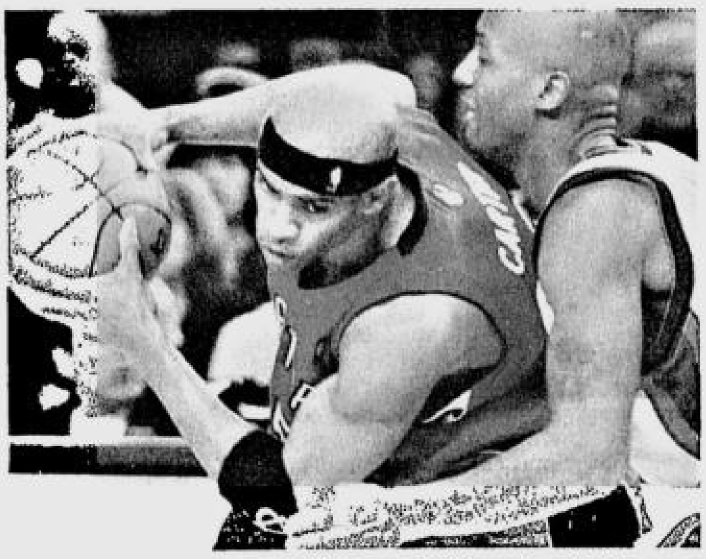
In Memphis, Stromile Swift had 19 points and 10 rebounds to help the Grizzlies overcome the Houston Rockets, 109-86.

In Boston, Paul Pierce poured in 34 points as the Celtics took over eighth place in the Eastern Conference with a 102-93 victory over the New Jersey Nets.

In New Orleans, Amare Stoudemire scored 25 points to earn the Phoenix Suns a 99-94 triumph over the Hornets.

In Miami, Rafer Alston hit a three-pointer with 0.5 seconds left in overtime to give the Heat their seventh straight win, a 119-118 decision over the Dallas Mavericks.Reuters

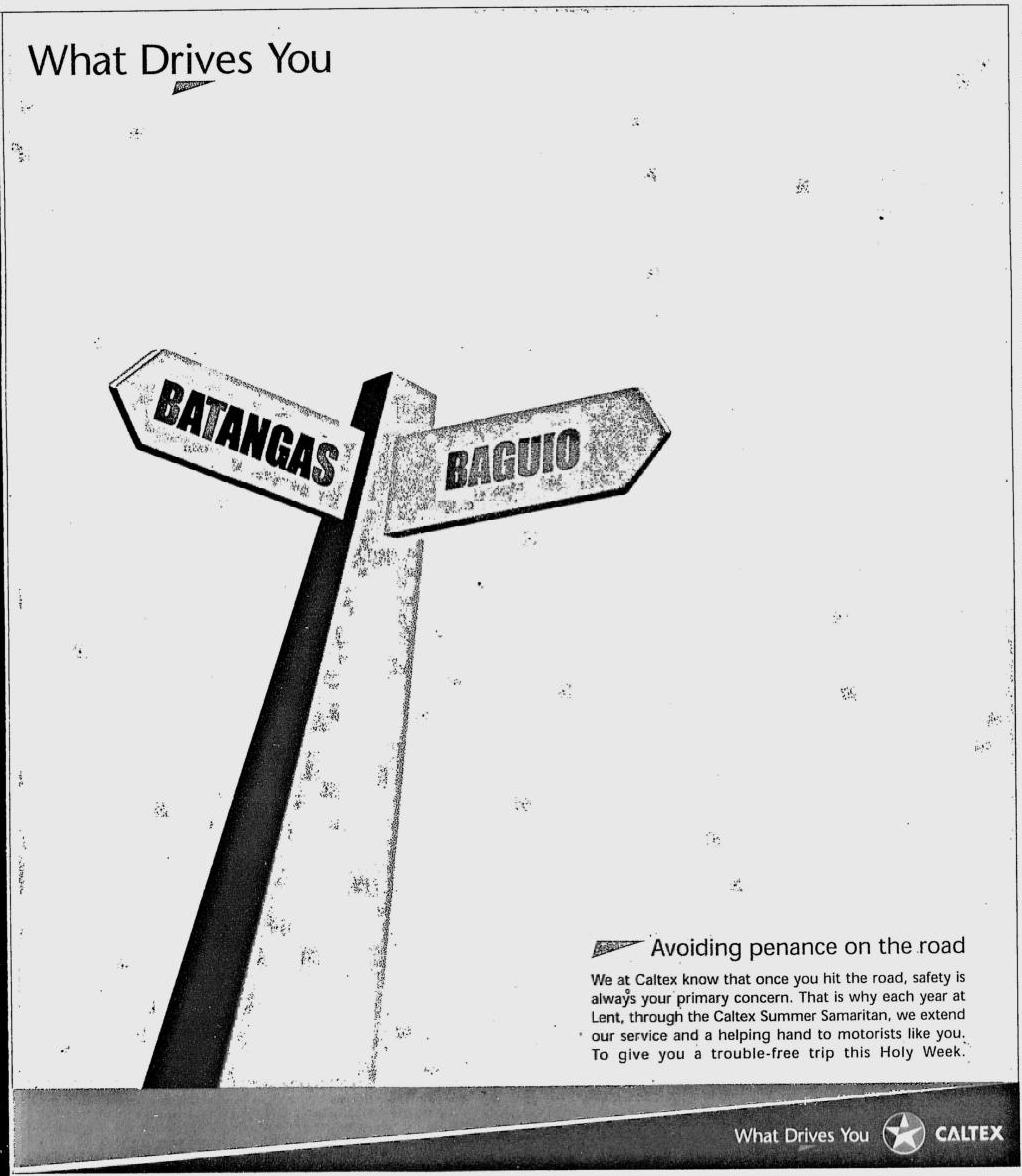
Complete results:
Indiana 107, Orlando 92; Philadelphia 86, Cleveland 71; New York 108, Toronto 101; Boston 102, New Jersey 93; Phoenix 99, New Orleans 94; Miami 119, Dallas 118 (OT); Memphis 109, Houston 86; Milwaukee 115, Chicago 105; LA Lakers 90, Minnesota 73; Golden State 99, Washington 78; Seattle 102, Denver 86.



TORONTO'S Vince Carter (left) protects ball from New York's Shandon Anderson. REUTERS

Xavier reaches final 8

ATLANTA—Romain Sato of the Central African Republic scored 27 points and backcourt mate Lionel Chalmers added 14 Friday to help the Xavier Musketeers beat Texas, 79-71, in the semifinals of the Atlanta Regional. No. 7 seed Xavier (26-10) won for the 16th time in 17 games and advanced to Sunday's regional final against Duke. Brandon Mouton had 21 before fouling out for the Longhorns. AP



Avoiding penance on the road

We at Caltex know that once you hit the road, safety is always your primary concern. That is why each year at Lent, through the Caltex Summer Samaritan, we extend our service and a helping hand to motorists like you. To give you a trouble-free trip this Holy Week.

Manila batters battle Perth

By Trina Ibarle

THE MANILA ATC Mariners blasted Singapore, 16-2, yesterday to arrange a title match with Perth today in the Under-12 minors division of the Southeast Asian Youth Baseball/Softball Tournament at the Alabang Country Club grounds.

Bobby Domingo and Mark Ong had four RBIs each as the Filipinos roared to a 9-1 lead after three innings before capping the rout with six more runs in the next frame.

Pitcher Patrick Reed also starred in the Mariners' triumph with four strikeouts and a two-run home run in the decisive second inning.

The Mariners' only defeat in the eliminations was inflicted by Bangkok, which was upset by Perth in the other semifinal duel to reach the championship against the hosts.

Meanwhile, the Manila Outback Marlins completed a four-game sweep of their elimination schedule with a 14-5 rout of Perth.

Pitcher Lorraine Uy finished with only two strikeouts, but she drove in five runs as the Marlins, who pulled off a 6-2 win over Bangkok last Friday, assured themselves of top spot in the semifinal playoffs.

The Marlins are fighting fourth-ranked Singapore in the semis at presstime.

But the Manila Bellevue Sharks bowed out of contention in the under-14 division after absorbing a 7-6 defeat from a taller and tougher Perth squad.

The Sharks finished with a 1-3 slate, while Perth topped the eliminations with a 4-0 card.

Thorpe disqualified

Champ out of 400-m free in Olympics

SYDNEY, Australia—World record holder Ian Thorpe will not be allowed to defend his 400-m freestyle gold at the Athens Olympics after being disqualified in the heats Saturday at the Australian trials.

THORPE AP

Thorpe, dubbed "The Thorpedo," fell off the starting blocks at the Sydney International Aquatic Center on Saturday morning on the first day of the eight-day Australian titles. He said he heard a noise, disrupting his concentration.

But Thorpe's appeal to Australian Swimming officials was later dismissed. Under Australia's strict qualification policy, only the two fastest swimmers in each race final qualify for the Olympics.

Thorpe, 21, appeared to overbalance on the blocks and fell into the water before the official start of his heat. He then got out of the pool and returned to the blocks with the rest of the competitors.

But meet referee John Keppie walked over to Thorpe's No. 4 block and disqualified him, surprising the small crowd at the center. Thorpe appeared stunned as he walked off the pool deck.

Australian Swimming chief executive Glenn Tasker announced the jury's findings.

"His swimming club lodged an appeal to the referee and subsequently dismissed the protest," Tasker said. "Following that the club went to the next level which was to ask Australian Swimming to convene a jury of appeal.

"Having read the protest document, the response of the referee and having interviewed the referee, the competitor and the team manager, the jury determined it would also view the broadcaster's video.

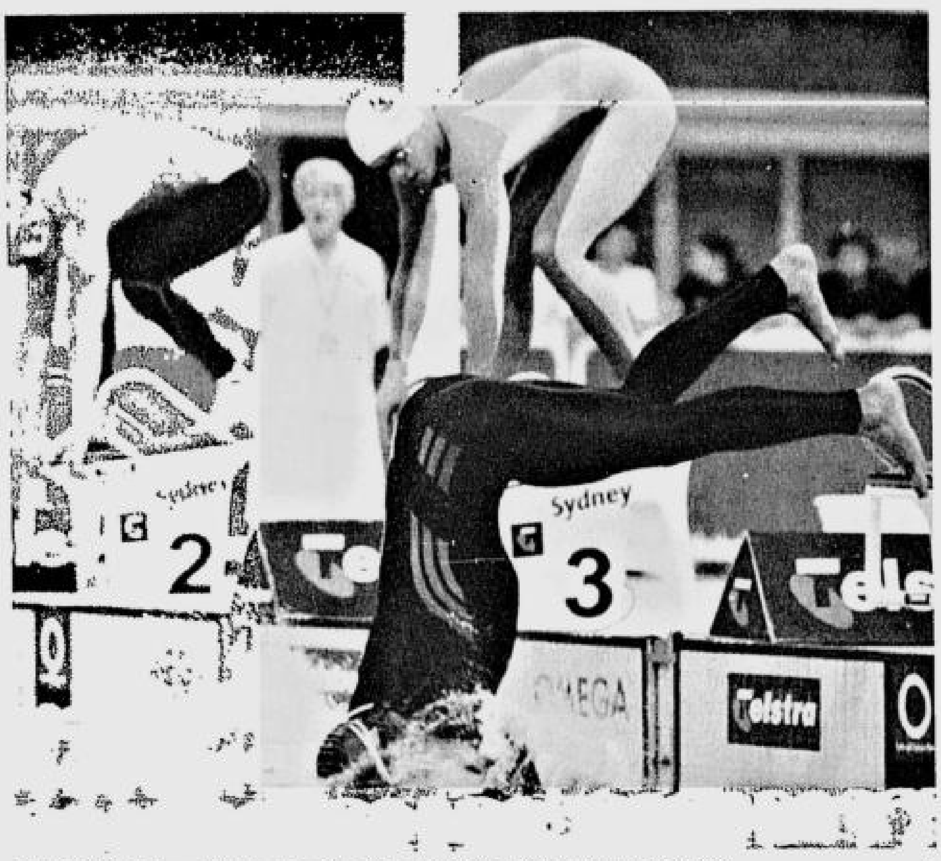
"Having done that, it is our determination that the referee's decision is correct and a determination of fact, the protest is dismissed, so Ian's disqualification stands."

Thorpe's manager, David Flaskas, said Thorpe felt the competitors had been kept on the blocks too long.

"Ian thought they were held a bit too long and he heard a noise, the audiovisual does not show that noise, so evidence wise it is a bit difficult," Flaskas said.

Flaskas said Thorpe was trying to come to grips with his disqualification.

"He is obviously disappointed but I think it is important he gets refocused on the rest of the meet. *AP*



THORPE falls from his block before the start of the 400-m freestyle heats. AP

Dazzling Cohen dashes Kwan's bid for crown

COHEN celebrates after the ladies' short program. AP

DORTMUND, Germany—Michelle Kwan's bid for a sixth world title all but ended Friday when she was overshadowed by Sasha Cohen and penalized for a short program that officials contend ran two seconds too long.

Kwan dropped to fourth place after an admirable but cautious performance. She executed all her elements, including a triple-double jump combination and another triple, but her technical marks were low—5.1 to 5.8. Her artistic marks were 5.6 to 5.9.

Referee Jan Hoffmann told US figure skating team leaders that Kwan's program lasted two minutes and 42 seconds—two seconds too long. The violation requires a 0.1 deduction on each mark.

The US team filed an immediate protest, asking for a review of the program's timing.

"All week long, Michelle Kwan's music has been timed at 2:40. Our question is, how then can the timing be off in the performance? That's the reason for the protest, to confirm that the timing of the performance was correct," said Chuck Foster, US Figure Skating president.

Officials say Kwan's "The Feeling Begins" music ended but that she skated two additional seconds before her final pose. Both Kwan and her coach, Rafel Arutunian, said the music is exactly two minutes, 40 seconds—the limit for short programs.

Kwan said she was unable to hear the music at the end of the program over the roar of the crowd.

"It was silly. The audience was loud. The music kind of bled," Kwan said. "So what am I supposed to do?"

Cohen skated the same jumps as Kwan, but with a fire that no other competitor could match. Her tantalizing interpretation to "Malaguena," which included the spirals that showcase her flexibility, earned her four perfect 6.0 marks for artistry. Her technical marks ranged from 5.6 to 5.9.

Long regarded as the best female skater of her era, Kwan tied the US record for world titles held by 1960 Olympic champion Carol Heiss when Kwan won in 2003. But she has little hope of winning a sixth title in Saturday's final skate. *AP*

SPORTSWATCH

Emano rules 4x4 opening leg

CAGAYAN DE ORO Off-Road Club's Richard Emano benefited from an intense pre-season preparation as he tamed the tough Damosa Race Track to rule the start of the Delo Sports National Extreme 4x4 Series in Lanang, Davao City, recently. Emano garnered a combined 25 minutes and 41.77 seconds in conquering all the three tracks (A, B, C) to top the first stop of the national Delo Sports series, which is sanctioned by the National Association of Filipino Off-Roaders (Nasfor). "I've been preparing hard for the national series," said Emano. "I'm just glad that all of the intensive training and preparation resulted in this first-leg victory. Tim Tom Gempesaw of the Davao 4-Wheelers used his familiarity of the Damosa conditions to the hilt but could only manage a runner-up finish with a clocking of 26:12.77. Robert Abas, the defending champion and last season's Off-Roaders of the Year, ranked a fighting third with an aggregate time of 28:20.45 while Joey Salangsang of the GenSan 4x4 Fun Club placed fourth with a clocking of 40:18.93.

Falcons seize 7 Lakes top spot

MANILA-ADAMSON'S Falcons routed Sulpicio Lines-Cagayan de Oro, 74-62, Friday to seize the solo lead in the Panasonic-7 Lakes Invitational Cup basketball tournament at the Aquino gym in San Pablo City. The Falcons raced to a 41-30 halftime lead behind the guns of Chad Alonzo, Mark Abadia and Patrick Tiongco and never looked back to notch their second straight victory in the tourney hosted by Mayor Florante "Boy" Aquino and sponsored by Sulpicio Lines. UA-Pampanga's Pelicans bounced back from an opening-day loss to the Falcons to subdue Spring Cooking Oil-San Pablo 7 Lakers, 75-69, in the other game. With their 1-1 card, the Pelicans tied the Lakers of national shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Mayor Aquino at second place.

Derby weights submission today

COCKERS and breeders who still want to join the "Slasher Cup ng Masa" 6-Cock Derby at Roligon Mega Cockpit must submit their entries today, Sunday, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Action starts at 6 p.m. tomorrow, March 29. Roligon owner Rolly Ligon said that the guaranteed jackpot prize of P1.5 million will be given to the winners regardless of the actual number of entries. The event's host is tabloid executive and former World Slasher Cup champion Rey Briones. Entry fee is P8,800 with a P3,300 minimum bet. Participants from the provinces may field six cocks during the championship round on March 31, Briones said. For inquiries, contact 833-2275, 833-1638, 852-9774 and 852-9812 (look for Aubrey, Shirley or Tiling).

NCA meet under way March 30

THE MUCH-AWAITED National Cockers Association (NCA) 7-Cock Derby to be hosted by partners Tony Tan, Tony Marfori and Pepito Ngo will push through as scheduled this coming Tuesday and Thursday (March 30 and April 1) at the fully air-conditioned Araneta Coliseum. According to NCA president Ito Ynares, the same derby format will be followed—3-cock eliminations on Tuesday and 4-cock finals on Thursday. A participant must score at least a point during the elimination to qualify for the championship round. Points earned will be added to a participant's total score in the NCA Cocker of the Year race. Submission of weights is on Monday, March 29, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Araneta green gate. For inquiries, contact 911-3101 and 911-2928. On April 13 and 15 is another NCA 7-Cock Derby with hotelier Biboy Enriquez and Ucap president Raymond Velayo as promoters.

Obosa stuns Mapandan race rivals

ERICSON Obosa of Manaoag upset the big guns by ruling the star-studded 8th Mapandan Invitational Cycling Classic in Pangasinan on Thursday. An obscure Tour veteran, Obosa, 25, sustained a four-man breakaway before outsprinting his partners in the last 250 m of the 138-km race to pocket the P6,000 top prize and a giant trophy. He also won P2,200 for his summit victories. Reynaldo Navarro of San Jacinto town came in second for P4,000. Guest rider Michael Reyes of Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya, was third, followed by former national rider Emilito Atilano at fourth. "These Pangasinan boys will give favorites in this year's Tour a run for the money," said Mamerto Eden Jr., co-chair of the event. Mayor Jose Ferdinand Calimlim Jr., Vice Mayor Adolfo A. Aquino and Councilor Siony Calimlim awarded prizes and trophies to the winners.

Fistorama show today on RPN 9

SAMSUNG'S Fistorama today features an exciting 10-rounder in the bantamweight division. Carlo Jayme battles Elden dela Cruz at 118 lb. The fight was held Thursday at the state-of-the-art Joe Cantada Boxing Arena in Bicutan, Taguig. INQUIRER sports columnist Al Mendoza will rejoin the broadcast panel starting today. The popular boxing show is aired weekly in the United States, Europe, Australia, Japan, the Middle East and other parts of the world through ABS-CBN's Pinoy Central TV. Now on its third year, the show is aired at 2 p.m., Sundays, on RPN-9. Chief backers are Samsung Electronics Phils. Corp. and Tanduay Rhum. Golf Power follows the boxing program at 3 p.m.

OFF TO BAHRAIN F1. Enzo Pastor (left), the first Filipino Asian Formula champion, joins lady driver Gaby de la Merced, first Filipino BMW scholar Don Pastor and Team Tec Pilipinas-FBMW owner and AF3 promoter Tom Pastor during the recent signing of contract and turnover of the next Formula BMW Scholarship. De la Merced will be the next driver to compete in the world-class Formula BMW 2004 series in Bahrain on April 3-4, the same date of the F1 race. De la Merced will leave today for Bahrain along with Tom Pastor, her coach Enzo and two Filipino mechanics.

Feisty Fistorama; super body or super bogus?

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

GUESS who I shook hands with some nights ago?

Goody Peñalosa, the beautiful wife from GenSan of former world superflyweight boxing champion Gerry Peñalosa.

The handshake with Goody, still very trim and well-poised as usual, happened at the Joe Cantada Sports Center in Bicutan, Taguig, on Thursday during the Fistorama boxing fights. The super-charged fights, incidentally, are set for airing starting at 2 p.m. today over RPN-9.

Oh, boy, Thursday night was a night to remember. I was with boxing legends once more like Taby Tabaniag and other indefatigable boxing buffs like Quinito Henson, Ed Picson, Hermie Rivera and Terry Carter of Cebu.

I always see Ed Picson at his extremely popular Easy Street Bistro along Commonwealth Avenue in QC but to be with him on a night peopled by pure boxing aficionados was like sharing a banquet/lauriat with friends you haven't seen for years.

Quinito Henson? Well, who doesn't know him? You say you don't know him and that's like saying you don't recognize FPJ as the man to beat in GMA's bid to win the May 10 presidential polls.

Hermie, I haven't seen for quite some time; I only get to hear him every now and then over his Radyo ng Bayan 8 a.m. daily program.

And Terry Carter? Well, I've heard of his tireless efforts to discover and develop boxers but it was only on Thursday that I got the chance to meet him in person—in the company of Joy Ouano.

It was a thrill like no other.

I saw Goody last when her hubby, Gerry, announced a while back his retirement under the wing of Rudy Salud, the very respected sportsman whose stint as PBA commissioner in the '80s was one of the most admired since the league's birth in 1975. Just very recently, Rudy Salud won the World 8-Cock Derby at the Araneta Coliseum. That was another feather on his cap, an impeccable achievement indeed because it proved once more that locally bred roosters are world-class—like Rudy's own.

But to get back to Fistorama, which is as feisty as ever.

Fistorama, which has produced three world champions in the '60s when Insan Taby T and the late Joe Cantada were hosting it, is enjoying its first anniversary of resurrection this year after an absence of nearly two decades. My hat's off to the Cantada family—Boy, Tonette, Therese and Gerard. They have been packing the crowd in since they brought Fistorama back last year. And to top it all, admission is free. Take a bow, Boy et al.

Joe Cantada must be eternally smiling from where he is now: up there in the company of Joe Sumalde, Flash Elorde, Arnie Tuadles, Pinggoy Pengson and Danny Floro, to name but a few of the greats in sports who have gone ahead of us.

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I hate to say this but the people behind the so-called "super body" in basketball have just committed the grievous sin of lying. It's Sunday today and I strongly suggest they go to the confessional box, atone for their sins while asking forgiveness from our Lord Jesus Christ—that is, if they are practicing Christians/Catholics at all.

You can't keep your word, you ought to be man enough and apologize.

For, haven't you told us the last time you'd be coming up with a covenant on Friday (March 26), assigning the PBL's Chino Trinidad and Butch Maniego to draft the so-called covenant?

Look, instead of presenting the promised covenant, what the group had was another promise: to draft the constitution of their "super body." What could be the next promise, I am still in a daze as to make an educated guess.

But as I said, how can a "super body," such as the one they are trying to envision, be called a "super body" when it has no powers to speak of from the very beginning?

Anyway, anybody can put up his own gig and next call it a "super body." After all, this is a free country.

But in the case at bar, common sense tells us that there's but one super body in basketball—the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP)—as there is but one super body in all other organized disciplines in the country; they are the NSAs in, say, track and field, boxing, tennis or golf.

The BAP, like the rest of the duly installed NSAs in the country, is the only super body in basketball because it is officially recognized as the governing body for basketball by the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC), the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) and the International Basketball Federation (Fiba). To say that the BAP is illegal is to also say that the POC, PSC and Fiba are illegal. So, until and after the present BAP is abolished, may I remind everybody once more that there is but one super body in basketball: the BAP. And the other one being put up is not and will never be a "super body" but a "super bogus." It's as simple as that.

You never say one plus one equals three.

REUTERS

JAPANESE entry Silent Deal works out at the Nad al Sheba race track.

DUBAI WORLD CUP

US bets Pleasantly Perfect, Medaglia d'Oro favored

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates—Pleasantly Perfect and Medaglia d'Oro are the favorites in Saturday's US$6-million Dubai World Cup, where US horses have won three times in eight years but lost to Dubai's own Godolphin's racers in the last two runnings.

Godolphin, who won the last race with Moon Ballad and the previous year with Street Cry, are not very excited about their new entry, lightly raced Grande Hombre. He won the Pennsylvania Derby in September, and is fifth on the favorites list with British bookmakers, behind South African Victory Moon and Japanese entry Admire Don.

Dubai Crown Prince Sheik Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who owns Godolphin together with his brothers, said Wednesday that the horse only has a 50-50 chance of winning the US$3.6-million first prize.

English bookmakers are convinced Medaglia d'Oro, who has cut a powerful figure at Nad al Sheba gallops all week, is the favorite at 7-4. Pleasantly Perfect, trained by American Hall of Famer Richard Mandella who has saddled three runners-up at the World Cup, is on offer at 2-1.

Two other American hopefuls are in the field—Japan Cup winner Fleetstreet Dancer and stakes winner Domestic Dispute.

Locally trained State Shinto, Japanese hopes Regent Bluff and Silent Witness, Turkey's multiple Stakes winner Dinyeper and neighboring Saudi Arabian hope King's Boy complete the field.

Medaglia d'Oro is coming off a victory in the Donn Handicap at Gulfstream Park last month. Pleasantly Perfect won the San Antonio Handicap at Santa Anita in January.

But Gary Stevens, who will be aboard Domestic Dispute Saturday, said the race is not a two-horse contest between Pleasantly Perfect and Medaglia d'Oro.

"There's no doubt that those two are above average, but I've seen the South African horse (Victory Moon) and he is a very, very good horse," said Stevens, who delivered a cameo performance in the Oscar-nominated Hollywood movie, "Seabiscuit."

"And they'd better not forget about the horse in the number one box (Domestic Dispute). It's not a two-horse race by any stretch of the imagination, as only the best horses in the world are invited. And in racing, everything has a chance."

Katsumi Ando, who will be aboard Admire Don, said his horse has every chance of winning.

Godolphin trainer Saeed bin Suroor, who has won the race four times in the last five years, admits that Grand Hombre will have to conjure up something "extraordinary" to beat the Americans. *AP*

'Mother of All Bombs' explodes again

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

WHEN Jeff Zarate first guided Moab to victory, he couldn't help but praise the filly to high heavens.

"*Ang galing ng kabayo, kuya. Kusang-kusa ang hatak,*" Jeff told me when I bumped into him at the Main Track of the Santa Ana Park moments after the Hazm-Leveret progeny's triumph last March 21.

Yesterday, Jeff partnered the "Mother of All Bombs" again and the result was just as devastating as the 3-year-old chestnut galloper shamed the touted Favorite Girl in Race 2 at the SLLP, scorching the 1,400-m distance in dizzying 1:30.

Keep an eye on Moab.

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From the pigeon hole, mail box, e-mail and the fax machine, let's hear it once again from the *bayang karerista* as they comment on the lousy coverage at the "*wa*-class" racetrack, upcoming Triple Crown series and recent suspension of jockeys.

***

- You are right, racing coverage at the "*wa*-class" racetrack in Carmona, Cavite, has suffered greatly *mula nang mawala sina* Howie Basilio *at* Ira Herrera.

Yung mga ipinalit sa kanila mga "wa-class" ang dating, puro bomba pa madalas kung magbigay ng tips. —Romy Marilan, Llano Road, Caloocan City.

- *Nakakatamad manood ng karera sa* SLLP. *Yung mga bagong* analyst *walang kabuhay-buhay. Pero tama po yata yun dahil* a "*wa*-class" racetrack deserves "*wa*-class" analysts. —Precioso "Cio" de los Santos, Baesa, QC.
- *Dito sa* OTBS *sa* Novaliches, *hinihinaan namin ang* volume *pag nagbibigay na ng* tips *yung mga alang kabuhay-buhay na ipinalit kina* Howie Basilio *at* Ira Herrera *kasi nasisira lang ang diskarte namin. Sana po alisin na yang mga 'yan kasi lalong nakakasira sa* image *ng* SLLP. —Eduardo "Adong" Cabigting, Gen. Luis, Novaliches, QC.
- *Yung isang* announcer *sa* SLLP *pumalpak ata o talagang ganon? Tawanan ang mga nanonood kong bisita galing sa* Davao *nang marinig nila sa* Race 2 *nitong Biyernes lang na* 'La Española urging his mount now.' *Ano yun, kabayo ang nakasakay?* —Roberto San Mateo, Proj. 6, QC.
- *Wala na atang makuhang matinong* tipsters *sa* SLLP. *Pati mga* race callers *nagti*-tip *na eh alam naman ng buong bayang karerista na nag-aalahoy lang lahat yung mga yun. Babalik pa po ba sina* Ira at Howie? —Mario Salangsang, Sta. Quiteria, QC.
- *Sana mapansin ng mga taga* SLLP *na kapag parating na sa meta yung mga kabayo may mga nakikitang nakatayong tao sa may balya. Itong mga nakaraang karera eh ganun ang nakikita namin. Sino ba yung mga yun? Ang sakit po sa mata eh.* —Rodolfo "Ompong" Ruiz, San Andres, Manila.
- *Suki talaga ni* Empire King *si* Don Paolo. *Nalutsa na ni* Shock and Awe, *nanalo pa rin nang huling laban nila. Matapang lumaban kaya tingin ko patok sa* Triple Crown. —Jason de la Cruz, Balanga, Bataan.
- I think Speed O'War and Don Paolo will go up as favorites in the first leg of the Triple Crown this year. Unless they don't engage in an early speed duel, I think one of them will win the Cojuangco Cup. But I'll put my money on Empire King. —Zenen Romadillo, G. Tuazon, Balic-Balic, Sampaloc, Manila.
- *Nadale pala ng* three months *si* Jesus Guce *dahil kay* King's Choice. Maybe the verdict was right since King's Choice handily won a few days ago under RK Hipolito. —John Lloyd Morales, T. Samson Road, Novaliches, Calocan City.
- Was AS Jacob suspended for 52 weeks recently? *Matagal yun*. If it's true, I pity him, as well as GE Biazon, MV Pichay and JQ Cabarrios. *Pero kailan ba talaga matututo ng leksiyon ang mga hineteng garapal magdala ng biyahe? Pwede naman sigurong magbiyahe wag lang pahuhuli?* — Henry Palopinto, San Fernando City, Pampanga

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Thank you very much, gentlemen. We'll hear more from the *bayang karerista* next week.

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E-mail One Winner at evillanueva@inquirer.com.ph or edongvilla@yahoo.com.

War Hero heads benefit race cast

THREE benefit races will be held today at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

The featured racing fund-raisers are the two "Gawad Kalinga Foundation Cup" races and the "Nourish the Children" Stakes, all sponsored by the Philracom with a guaranteed prize of P40,000 each.

Participating in Group 1 of the "Gawad Kalinga Foundation Cup" are a mixed bunch of classy imports and locals, led by last year's champion, 3-year-old filly War Hero, with local bets San Diego Force, Hyperbid, as well as top imports Absolute Charmer and American Dame.

Competing in Group 2 of the event are classy locals Adam's Call, Bulakeña, Conquer D'Sun and Union Square, together with up-and-coming import Surprise Target.

Meanwhile, those vying for top honors in the second edition of the "Nourish the Children" Stakes are group winners Go Ichi, Air Force One, Flying Jordan, Chairman of D' Board, Kingrick, Real Diamond, Alexi's Magic and Patikim.

All three featured races are set over a distance of 1,600 m and offers a prize of P240,000 to the winner, with P90,000, P50,000 and P20,000 going to the second to fourth placers, respectively.

Proceeds of the said races will be given to the Gawad Kalinga and Feed The Children Foundation in support of their varied socio-civic projects.

Meanwhile, Klub Don Juan de Manila will also be marking its second foundation anniversary today at the SLLP with the running of the KDJM Special Race with a guaranteed winner's purse of P170,000.

Serena returns with easy win

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida—Resplendent rather than rusty, Serena Williams looked like a costumed superhero and played pretty well, too.

She unveiled a sleek white and silver outfit, smacked aces, pumped her fist and won in 42 minutes.

Serena's back, ending an eight-month layoff by easily advancing at the Nasdaq-100 Open with a 6-1, 6-0 victory Friday over qualifier Marta Marrero.

The match was the first for Williams since she earned her sixth Grand Slam title by beating older sister Venus at Wimbledon last July. She had been sidelined since undergoing knee surgery Aug. 1, 2003.

"I was very nervous going out there," she said. "Then I decided that I'm just going to go out there and do the best I can."

During the layoff, Williams designed clothes and signed a new Nike contract, and curiosity regarding the state of her game was rivaled by anticipation of her latest outfit. She wore a metallic warm-up coat and a sleeveless dress with a wide corset that glistened in the Florida sun.

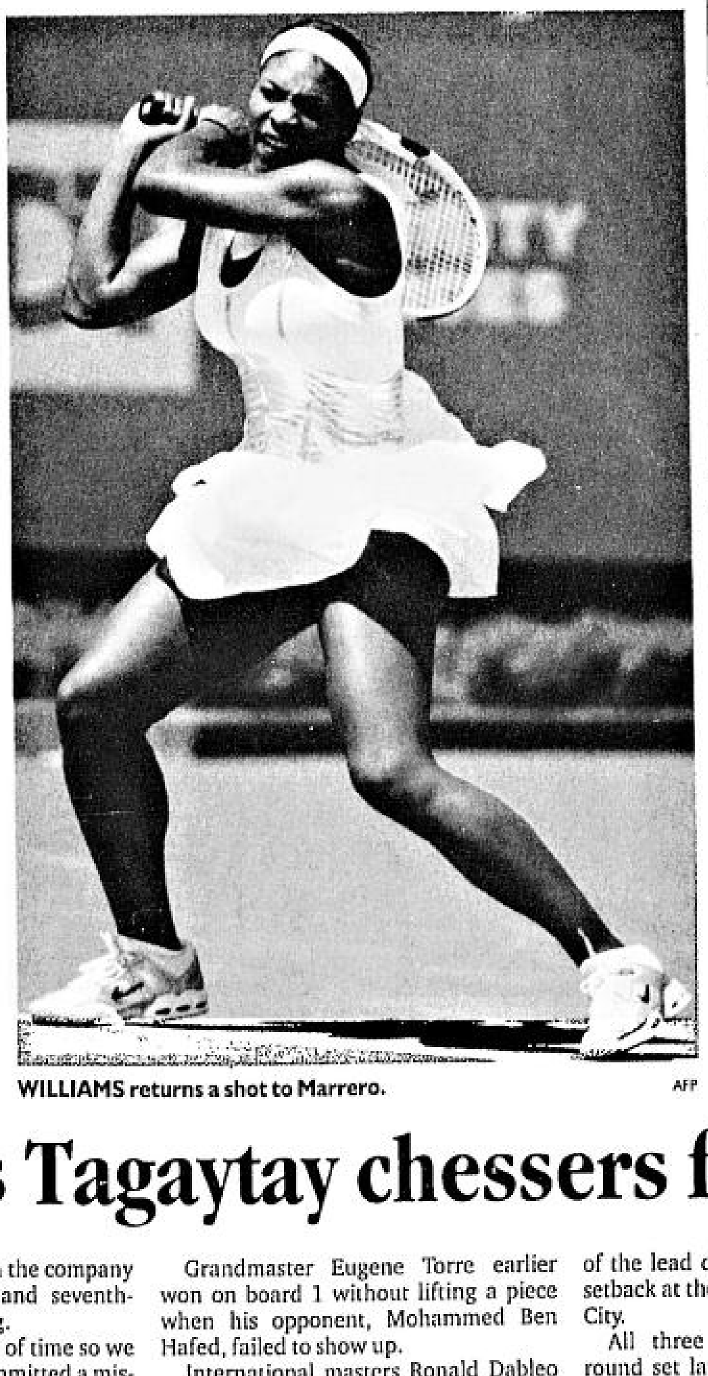
She remains a heavyweight on the women's tour, and now that Williams is back, much of her competition is missing. She has slipped to No. 6 in the rankings, but the five players ahead of her —including top-ranked Justine Henin-Hardenne—are absent from the Key Biscayne field, leaving Williams seeded No. 1.

Also in the mix is No. 4 Jennifer Capriati, who opened by beating Klara Koukalova, 6-0, 6-1. Sixth-seeded Ai Sugiyama lost to Maria Vento-Kabchi, 6-1, 7-5.

In men's second-round matches, Goran Ivanisevic retired after losing a set to Rafael Nadal. Ivanisevic complained of pain in his fragile left shoulder, which has plagued him for much of the past three years.

The first seeded player to lose was No. 16 Mardy Fish, eliminated by qualifier Julien Benneteau, 6-4, 6-4. No. 7 Tim Henman was beaten by Jurgen Melzer, 7-6 (3), 2-6, 7-6 (4).

Lleyton Hewitt defeated Robin Soderling, 6-4, 6-2. *AP*


AFP

WILLIAMS returns a shot to Marrero.

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Dazzling Affair 2. Grande Ecole 3. Guest House 4. Boogie Shoes
Race 2—1. Spoiler 2. Aprey's Special 3. Eden's Quest 4. Star Sapphire
Race 3—1. Arbiter 2. Skip Away 3. Cool Clay 4. Nagialabyog
Race 4—1. Western Dancer 2. Bullish Dream 3. Royal Magic 4. Time Deposit 5. All Class
Race 5—1. Toril 2. Cover Girl 3. Galapagos 4. Fountain of Gold
Race 6—1. Empire King 2. Batangas Force 3. Music Express 4. Cool Runnings 5. Elusive Quality 6. Galiil
Race 7—1. Flying Jordan 2. Chairman of D Board 3. Air Force One
Race 8—1. Ganda 2. She Boom 3. Last Dance 4. Tiger Winnie 5. Shape of the Wind
Race 9—1. Adam's Call/Bulakeña 2. Surprise Target 3. Conquer D Sun
Race 10—1. Bingbong 2. Magic Lance 3. Screaming Eagle 4. Jayvie's Godfather 5. Stout Hearted
Race 11—1. War Hero 2. San Diego Force 3. Hyperbid
Race 12—1. Free Hand 2. Jamie's Princess 3. Time to Party 4. Solid North 5. West Swinger
Race 13—1. Penthouse 2. Schwarzenegger 3. Mika Mix 4. Terminator 5. Namaste 6. Mr. Bullseye

Antonio delivers as Tagaytay chessers force 4-way logjam

TAGAYTAY—Grandmaster Joey Antonio delivered under time pressure Friday as Tagaytay swept Dubai, 4-0, and forged a four-way tie for the lead in the 14th Asian Cities Chess Championship at the Tagaytay International Convention Center here.

Showing his blitz skills, Antonio forced Dubai's Faisal Alsharhan to blunder in the 50th move of a Caro Kann Defense Advance variation to seal Tagaytay's romp that shoved it in the company of Guangzhou of China and seventh-round leader Mandaluyong.

"We're both running out of time so we made rapid moves . He committed a mistake on Qb4," said Antonio, an Army corporal and six-time national champion, describing a position where black's queen was checked by white's knight as Alsharhan attempted to protect his unguarded king.

Grandmaster Eugene Torre earlier won on board 1 without lifting a piece when his opponent, Mohammed Ben Hafed, failed to show up.

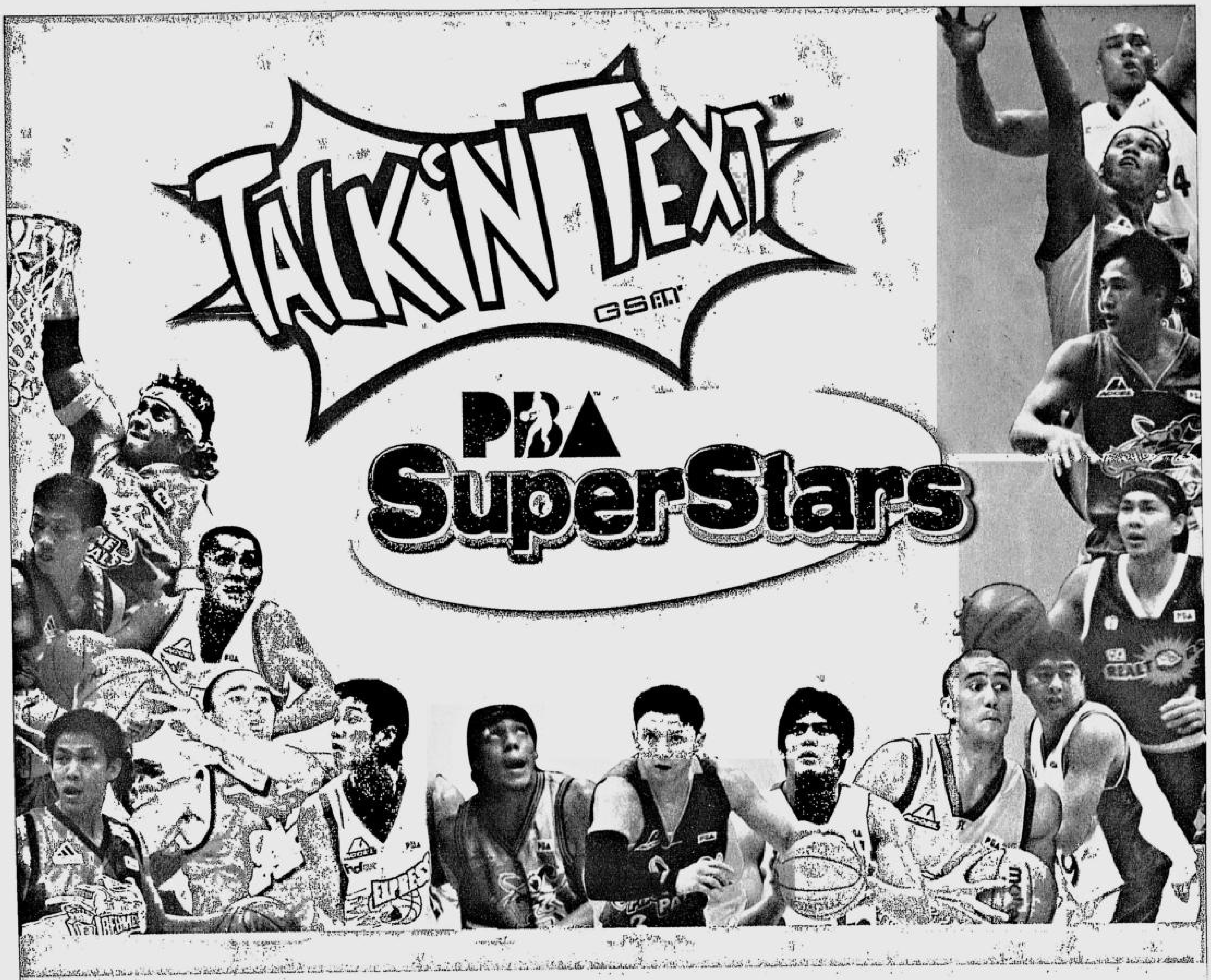
International masters Ronald Dableo and Jayson Gonzales, on the other hand, beat Fide Masters Nabil Saleh and Saeed Ishaq on boards 1 and 2, respectively.

Guangzhou settled for a 2-2 draw with defending champion Pavlodar while Mandaluyong continued to share a piece of the lead despite sustaining a 1.5-2.5 setback at the hands of giant-killer Pasay City.

All three teams entered the final round set late Saturday with 21 points each in the event organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines and the Tagaytay City Government.

Breathing down their necks was Pasay City with 20.5 points in the tournament backed by the Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Tourism, Philippine Sports Commission, League of Cities of the Philippines, STI, Active Chess Center of Asia, Character Convention and Tagaytay Haven Hotels.

Pasay saw its golden chance of wresting the outright lead vanish when Fide Manny Senador allowed victory to slip through his fingers against IM Mark Paragua on board 1.



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Brit exec says success secret is a supportive wife

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WITH wife Catherine attending a theme party in Dubai

A DEGREE in history from the Emmanuel College of Cambridge University provided Philip Morris Phils. Inc. managing director Chris Nelson valuable insights into the way people behaved through time to influence the course of events.

Nelson, however, is first to admit that his Master of Arts degree in History did not fully prepare him for actually dealing with different kinds of people first-hand.

This he only really started to learn in 1981, when at 22, he was hired as management trainee at tobacco firm Gallaher Limited in the United Kingdom.

"That was my single biggest learning experience. It was one thing to know about people in the classroom but quite different when you are really out there," Nelson tells the INQUIRER in an interview.

The job entailed making sales calls on potential customers in assigned areas to push Gallaher's products.

He had a vehicle assigned to him and he was required to make about 25 sales calls in a day. He came to areas cold. He knew nobody and the potential customers did not know that he was coming.

As a result, there were quite a number of customers who did not welcome his visit.

"I learned early on that people can be extremely rude and unfriendly. But there were some who would buy something from me and called me son. It was very hard work," Nelson says.

There were days when he got more rejections than orders. It could wear anybody down, but Nelson treated these experiences as a continuation of his history studies at Cambridge, thus, providing him with direct knowledge on how best to deal with people.

"It was a job that you either liked or hated. There were many lousy days but the experience helped me a lot. It gave me a lot of confidence in people and I learned how to work with them," Nelson says.

This intimate knowledge gathered over months hitting the sales beat proved invaluable in his chosen career in the tobacco industry.

Just two years later at 24, Gallaher sent the Southampton native to Saudi Arabia to be the company's market manager for Saudi Arabia and Yemen. In 1986, he was appointed brand manager.

It was in that same year when Nelson decided to leave Gallaher in favor of a management trainee position at Philip Morris International based in Al Khobar.

Philip Morris International is the global tobacco subsidiary of the Altria group, the world's largest consumer packaged goods company. Altria group's brands include Marlboro, Philip Morris, Virginia Slims, Kraft, Maxwell House, Nabisco, Oreo, Philadelphia, Post and Tang.

He describes the move to Philip Morris as a major turning point in his career as just three years later, he was given his first general manager position—short time by Philip Morris standards.

He headed the Saudi Arabia operations based in Jeddah for five years before being promoted area director for Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in 1994.

Nelson credits his Scottish colleague Torquil McLeod for having helped him up the corporate ladder.

He says McLeod taught him to pay very close attention to details and to put in more than 100 percent to get a particular job done. These lessons complemented his values of hard work and perseverance learned from his parents.

The youngest of three boys was reared by a father who served in government and a mother who stayed home and instilled in the siblings the importance of getting a good education and working to achieve their goals.

From Saudi Arabia, Nelson was posted in Dubai when he was again promoted as area director for the Gulf Cooperation Council (composed of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Oman), Horn of Africa and Dubai.

Nelson attributes his meteoric climb up Philip Morris' ranks to being single-minded in his approach to meeting goals and the readiness to make decisions.

"An executive must be ready to make decisions. It may not always be right but you have to make it and you have to stick by it," he stresses.

He also believes that luck had a big hand in his career.

"I believe in luck and I consider myself extremely lucky when it comes to my career. I guess it was just being at the right place at the right time when opportunity knocked," he says.

Opportunity knocked again last year when he was asked to head the operations in the Philippines.

It was something of a homecoming for Nelson as his wife of some 15 years, Catherine, is a Filipina from a prominent political family in Camarines Norte.

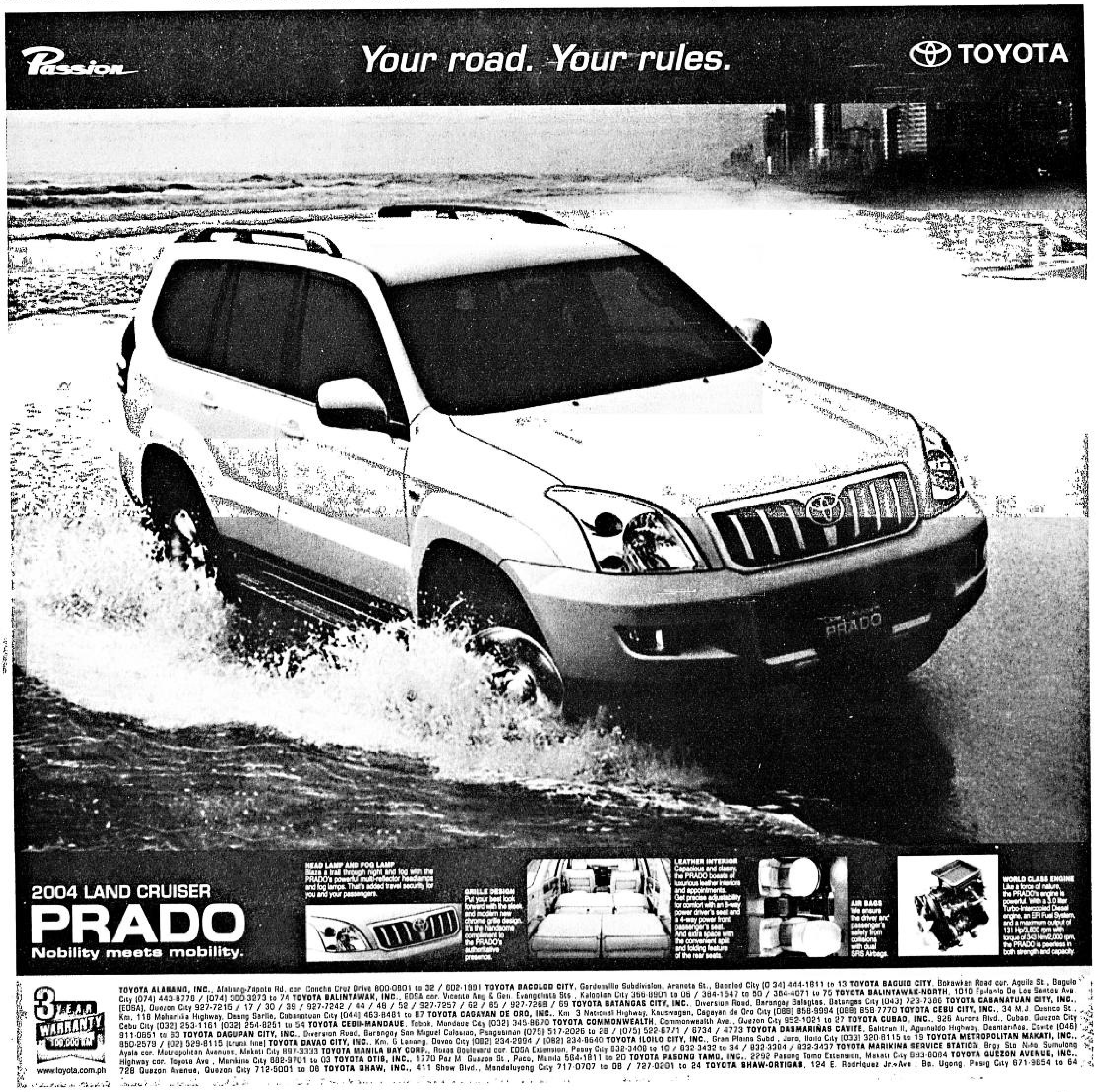
They met in Bahrain in 1984 during one of the gatherings for expatriates. He was still with Gallaher while Catherine was a flight attendant for Gulf Air.

It took him five years to convince Catherine to finally say "yes" to his marriage proposal and the Roman Catholic couple got married at the historic San Agustin Church in 1989.

He never regretted his decision, saying that having a supportive wife is critical to every executive's success.

"Because I focus a lot on my work, I do not have as much time as I want with my children but

BRIT/B2



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Officials shovel wet cement

THE AYALA Land officials' shoveling of wet cement onto wheelbarrows symbolically marked the beginning of the next phase in the construction of One Legazpi Park.

Representatives of One Legazpi's architects, GF & Partners, were on hand. "We consider it an accomplishment. It's a milestone in the construction of this project. We have done several projects for Ayala Land, and this is one of the tallest among the residential buildings we did for them," says architect Ted Narciso, partner-in-charge of design.

The group's managing partner Ric dela Rosa adds that achieving the top-off milestone required the maximized utilization of the firm's resources: "There were a lot of queries EEI Corp. wanted answered on time. That's why at a certain point, we assigned a group of full-time architect and electro-mechanical designers to address the contractor's queries.

All the partner groups mirrored this unwavering dedication during the process of finishing the structural portion of One Legazpi Park, according to Ayala Land's Residential Buildings Group assistant vice president Ruel Bautista. "From now on, we'll be concentrating on the finishing as well as the electro-mechanical works. Concrete topping-off is a milestone that is set right from the start. This marks the project's halfway completion."

Bautista shares that the turnover rites will be around the first quarter of 2006. Unit owners will be invited over to check for "defects" or to "punchlist," in the lingo of the construction business—before they move into their new homes.

For further details, call 848-5000, log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph, or email ayalasales@ayalaland.com.ph. Model units are available for viewing behind Filipinas Heritage Library, along Makati Avenue, Makati City.

Repack your bags and travel light

By Dante M. Velasco
Contributor

Executive Read
"Repacking Your Bags"
By Richard J. Leider & David A. Shapiro
Berrett Koehler, 2002

EXECUTIVE READ

FROM heavy stuff in finance, production and marketing—executives are being introduced to more lasting things like ethics, finding soul in the workplace. And, this time, traveling light.

Why should work be a burden—when it can be fun? A whole day is wasted if you haven't smiled at least once. "Whistle while you work," said the tandem of Leider and Shapiro in a book bearing the same title. How timely and apt in these times when the "yoke is heavy" and "trying times are upon us."

The same writing partners Leider and Shapiro have a wondrous book, "Repacking Your Bags," with the sub-title: "Lighten Your Load for the Rest of Your Life." It's amazing how an ancient advice from Jesus (who said, "Take my yoke because it is easy") comes to us fresher now in the 21st century.

Christian writer Max Lucado wrote a book, "Traveling Light"—an extended reflection of popular Psalm 23—which has essentially said the same thing. Modern men and women have so burdened themselves with the world's work and worry that their backs are breaking and their minds are blowing!

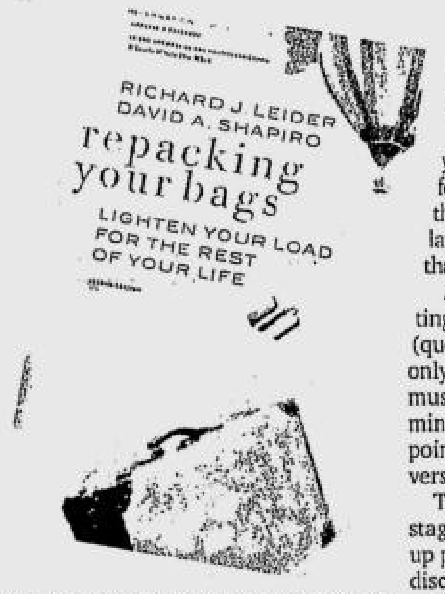
Well, repacking your bags is a metaphor fit for Lent and the entire summertime. And executives may well check the usual inventory in their "bags" and decide which items to leave behind, and which ones to bring.

The first step is to unpack. The authors say: "It takes some serious unpacking—letting go—to move forward on the trip. To unpack is to awaken, to see something different, to ask new questions. It is an expression of an urge to create, to live whole."

There is the usual resistance to changing a lifestyle dealing with "three bags of life," according to the authors: a briefcase (your work baggage), an overnight bag (your love baggage), and a trunk (your place baggage). All three "bags" are discussed with heartwarming stories from the authors' adventures in change.

In repacking, you will soon be confronted with the question with what is really important in life. Stripped to its bare essentials, what do you really need?

The next logical question is: What will make you happy? The authors summarize the happiness formula with this: "Living in a place you belong, with the people you Love, doing the Right Work, on Purpose." That's general enough to deal with a diversity of people and their choices, and that's specific enough to identify the essentials.



Such simple formula deals with four deadly fears, the book says—which are the fear of having lived a meaningless life (which can be dealt with by "work"), fear of being alone (dealt with by "love"), fear of being lost ("place" will take care of that) and fear of dying (a sense of "purpose" removes the sting of death).

The book is a wellspring of quotes from poets, essayists and philosophers—which makes it an engaging and inspiring read. Some thoughts even provide new ways of viewing things—like this from John Gardner: "The cure for boredom is not diversion; it is to find some work to do, something to care about."

We also need time to reflect, the book advises, get inside our souls—then move on. We must get new points of view, as when Professor John Keating (played by Robin Williams) in the film "Dead Poets Society" stood on top of the table and asked: "Why do I stand here?" His answer: "The world looks different from up here."

Barbra Streisand sang it some years ago: "On a clear day, you can see forever." Trainors change locations for their participants from lowlands to uplands in order to make them experience that "mountain top feeling."

And then you review your life, getting a cue from Soren Kierkegaard (quoted in the book) who said: "Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards." The authors remind us to have "listening points"—places of quiet "where the universe can be contemplated with awe."

Thus, as we negotiate the ages and stages of our lives, we continually give up parts of ourselves—we unpack—and discover new parts. Then we repack.

The book began with the reminder that executives must "re-find their smile." Since when did your smile get out of the door or the window? The authors' advice is as light as their bags with these simple to do's: Make do with fewer things, learn to say no, deepen existing relationships rather than form new ones (!), find beauty and satisfaction within not from the outside, and take the long view—and thus learn patience.

Is the book offering a drab, uneventful life? Absolutely not. Repack your bags with this reminder for the journey of a lifetime: "Living passionately for today and purposely for tomorrow." (dantemv@i-next.net)

Jewelry industry can be a silver lining for RP

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"IF THE local industry becomes cost efficient, the country can become a major source of jewelry. We produce very good quality jewelry. Our ability to adapt to design trends is our strongest selling tool," says Mia Faustmann of Michelis.

Twenty years in the jewelry business, Faustmann believes it can be done by upgrading standards. "It pays to invest on new equipment, retraining of existing and new workers to enhance production capacity and efficiency, continuing and constant design development to update on the look."

Faustmann adds there is more to the jewelry business than making money. "It is definitely not a get-rich quick type of venture because trust in your capability has to be established first."

Michelis is an example of having earned such trust from its customers. It is why sales and prospects for export are always in high gear.

"Those already in export like us, the potential this year will be very good. Actually, our purchase orders are higher than expected every year. So I guess now that we are widely accepted, this year will be even better for us," asserts Faustmann.

Serious business

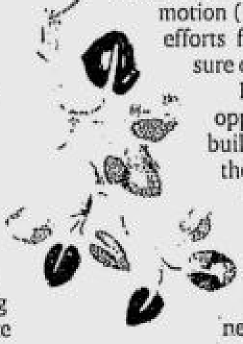
Faustmann stresses that the silver jewelry business should not be considered a mere luxury. "The government must realize it is an industry with potential to contribute to the economy. It does not require workers to have extensive education to earn a good living. If we develop high quality handcrafted exports targeting the high-end market, we can generate more employment. Quality has to be our edge as our labor costs are very high."

Despite boosting employment opportunities, the industry has a few obstacles to hurdle amid the dwindling economy particularly in export. Faustmann says various jewelry associations in the country have formed a confederation to address issues confronted by the industry. One of its major undertakings is the proper implementation of RA 8502, a law passed in 1998 and has yet to be implemented. This law provides incentives for the largely underground industry to surface by exempting jewelry makers from excise tax of 20 percent. Thus, if customs could curb smuggling and charge excise tax on imported finished jewelry, locally made jewelry would be cheaper for the consumer. "With all the work put in it by the Confederation, the implementing rules and regulations should be finally in place this year," relates Faustmann.

Faustmann also says the Confederation is planning to improve the industry through information drive, marketing activities and coordinating with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) on the proper disposal of used production supplies.

Building int'l ties

At the recent Vicenza Trilogy exhibit, Michelis and other local jewelers showcased their products. Vicenza is a joint project of the Guild of Philippine Jewellers Inc. and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Center for International Trade Expositions & Missions (Citem) and Bureau of Export Trade Promotion (BETP) as part of the promotional efforts for Philippine jewelry via exposure on trade fairs overseas.



Faustmann finds it an important opportunity for local jewelers to build their contacts and thus, pave the way for long-term business relationships, "For one, this exhibit could make the Philippines known as a source of fine jewelry and at the same time, get contacts on the export side of business. It also keeps us abreast of the latest trends that could help us establish Michelis as a global brand."

New silver trends

Technology is significant to the jewelry industry as in other businesses. Faustmann reveals laser machines are now used in soldering and engraving while other equipment are designed to increase output and save on manual labor, "The Philippines has to steer its way into a cost efficient mix of equipment usage and hand finishing to produce quality products. For jewelry, the hand finished is still highly valued."

Design trends range from colored stones that apply to both silver and gold, charms and charm bracelets and necklaces. Other interesting finds include hearts and crosses, other symbols of luck, wealth and prosperity as well as mixing matching or contrasting stones and colored enamels.

This year, Michelis patrons can expect more designs with facetted stones along with mixes of facetted stones with pearls, mother of pearl, horn and other new finishing techniques.

Faustmann reveals Michelis is gearing towards a long-term goal, "We are looking at opportunities to go global so for this year, we are starting to fine tune Michelis' look." Faustmann says Michelis will be banking on a tried and true formula of design sense and quality standards, attention to details, plan, preparation and commitment to the plan.

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April 1, 2004	7:00 A.M. - 9:30 P.M.	On Site Registration
	10:00 A.M.	Opening Ceremony
	12:00 P.M.	Fellowship Lunch
	1:30 P.M.– 5:00 P.M.	Symposium I Plenary Session I
	7:00 P.M.	Welcome Dinner "SAFARI NIGHT"
April 2, 2004	8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.	Tour on to Mayon
April 3, 2004	9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.	Closing Ceremony Symposium II Plenary Session II

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Brit exec says success secret . . .

From page B1

having a supportive wife balances things off nicely for me. I believe that having that partnership is critical to the success of every person," he explains.

They are blessed with three children: Michael, 13; Nicola, 10; and Paul, 7.

The family always looks forward to the yearly vacations that Nelson plans himself from the itinerary to the day-to-day activities. All his wife and children have to do is pack their bags. Bigger vacations are in the offing for the family as the children are near their grandparents and other members of their mother's family.

"The thought of being reconnected again with their Philippine roots appealed to both Catherine and our children," Nelson says.

Knowing the Filipino culture helped him immeasurably in adjusting to his new post as managing director of the Philippine operations, one of the biggest in Asia.

Coming in after Philip Morris put into operation its $300-million facility in Tanauan, Batangas, the group's single biggest investment in Asia, Nelson says his challenge is to further grow the business here.

"For this year we are focusing on developing the other brands in our portfolio and that means strengthening the existing sales and distribution sector. We are also keeping focus on our core brands because Marlboro and Philip Morris have a tremendous opportunity for growth here," he says.

Nelson says he would need the support of every member of the Philip Morris family in the Philippines to achieve these goals and he as managing director is tasked to provide the direction for the people.

It is here where his people skills developed early on in his career and honed as he went through different positions come in handy.

"I would say that I am more like a basketball coach. I am with my people every step of the way," he says. .

CHRIS circa 1983 in Al Khobar, just outside gulf of meridien

Sun Cellular to double cell sites

PLANS are underway to double Sun Cellular's cell sites around the country in partnership with the biggest network/infrastructure providers in the world—Ericsson and Alcatel. This is in line with their commitment to better serve its customers.

Sun Cellular employs EDGE or Enhanced Data Rates for Global Evolution technology that enables it to handle three times more subscribers than GPRS, triple their data per subscriber, and add extra capacity to voice communications. It has also entered into a $100 million contract with Alcatel to ensure an extensive coverage throughout the country.

Sun Cellular's post paid services offer fully voice consumable plans where subscribers can charge their local calls, NDD, IDD and even international roaming.

Call rates are as low as P4/minute for local calls and $0.30 per minute for international calls. It also offers the lowest post paid plan of only P250 per month with free handsets for subscribers.

Sun Cellular's prepaid services, meanwhile, currently has a free credit promotion where those who reload 15 days from their last reload can get as much as P60 free credit. Likewise ongoing until March 31, 2004 is a "Buy One, Take 200" promotion where those who purchase a prepaid SIM will not only get P100 worth of initial load, but another P100 load 30 days after.

East West Bank turns 10

LAST July 6, 1994, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas granted East West Bank the license to operate—the first to be given in 20 years.

Since then, East West Bank had been introducing products and services that made banking easier, more reliable and more convenient to clients. It sought new ways to reach its market by maximizing the benefits of new technologies.

The Bank's moves are anchored on its corporate slogan, "Building Relationships, Completing Lives."

Its Internet portal, mylife.ph, is a tool where clients may get the latest news and lifestyle articles and is an interactive community that allows clients to get in touch with one another and eventually spawn business opportunities.

The bank has invested substantially in IT.

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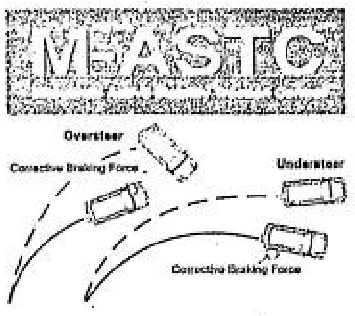

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Editor Aries Espinosa

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LOYALTY CARD

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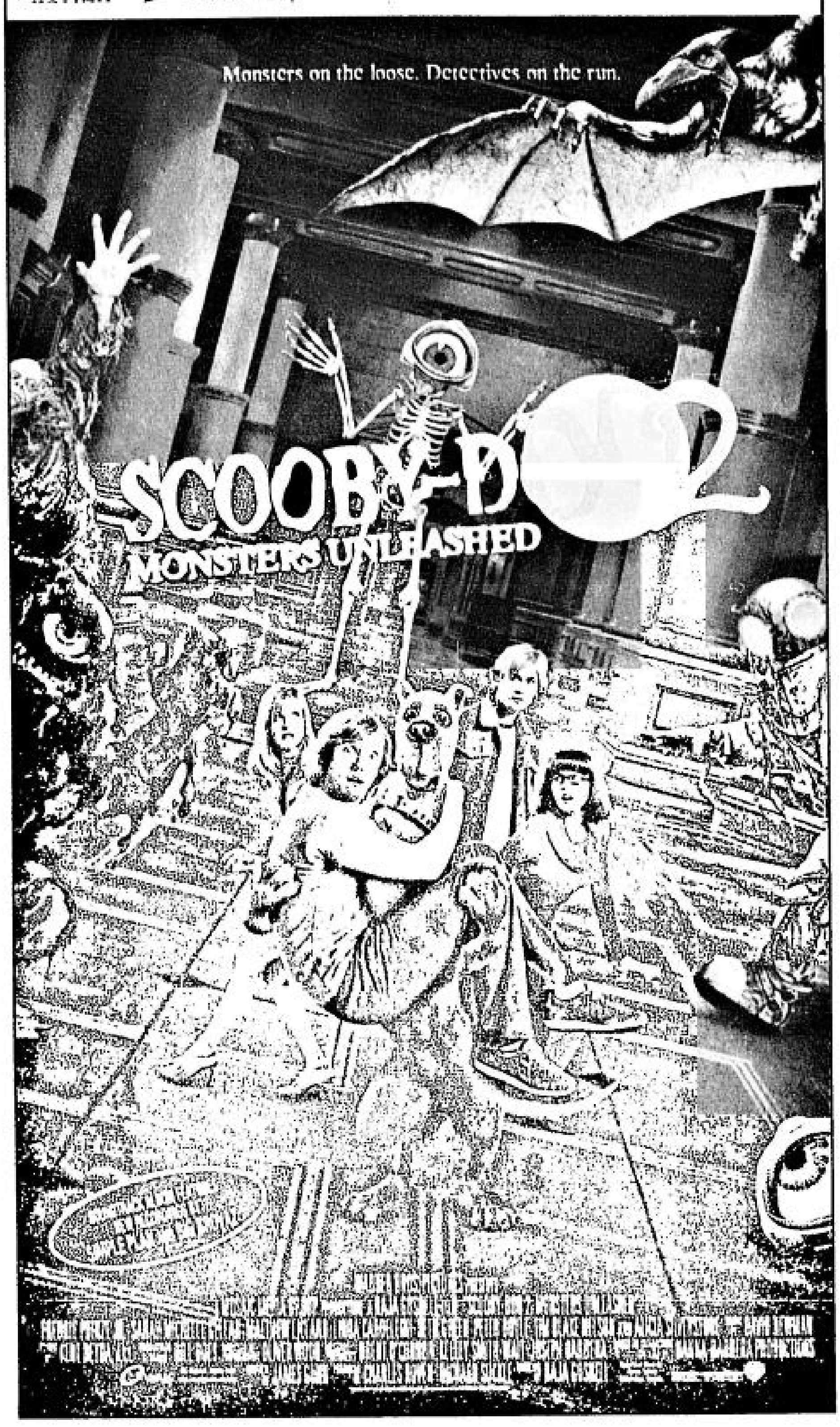
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THE TIMELESS STORY AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE
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'PETER PAN,' PURE SCREEN MAGIC

Imagine a world where you can fly… where you never have to grow up or grow old.

Three major Hollywood studios – Columbia, Revolution & Universal Studios -- join forces to present an epic multi-million dollar live-action film filled with unbounded imagination, breath-taking adventure and dazzling visual effects.

Harry Potter and **Lord of the Rings** fans should not miss this enduring tale of heroism, magical discovery and fulfilled dreams.

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REGULAR RUN BEGINS APRIL 10

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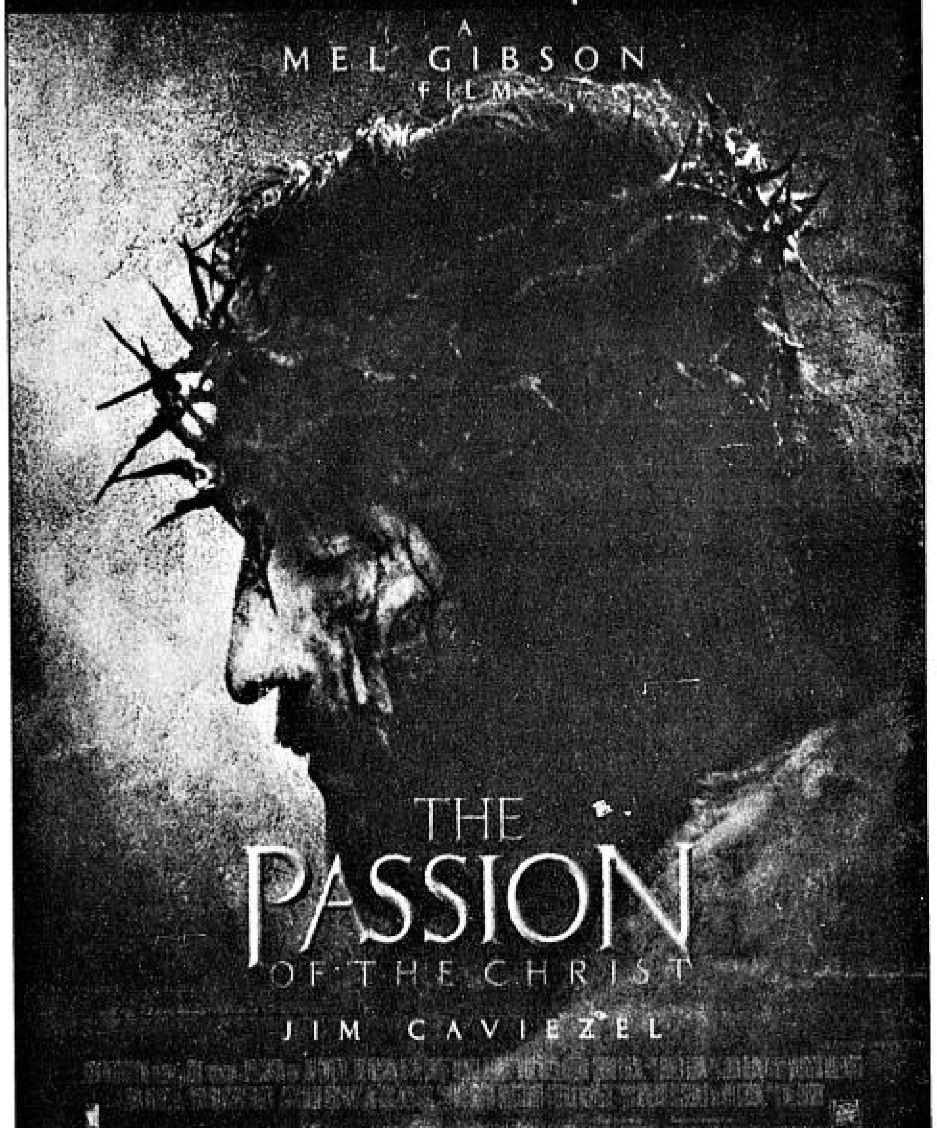
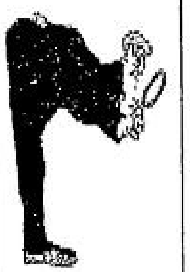
"TWO THUMBS WAY UP! A GREAT EPIC FILM."
-Ebert & Roeper



OPENS MARCH 31

Where you find the best.



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MTRCB RATING ▶ R-18 — Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. old may be admitted

OPENS MARCH 31

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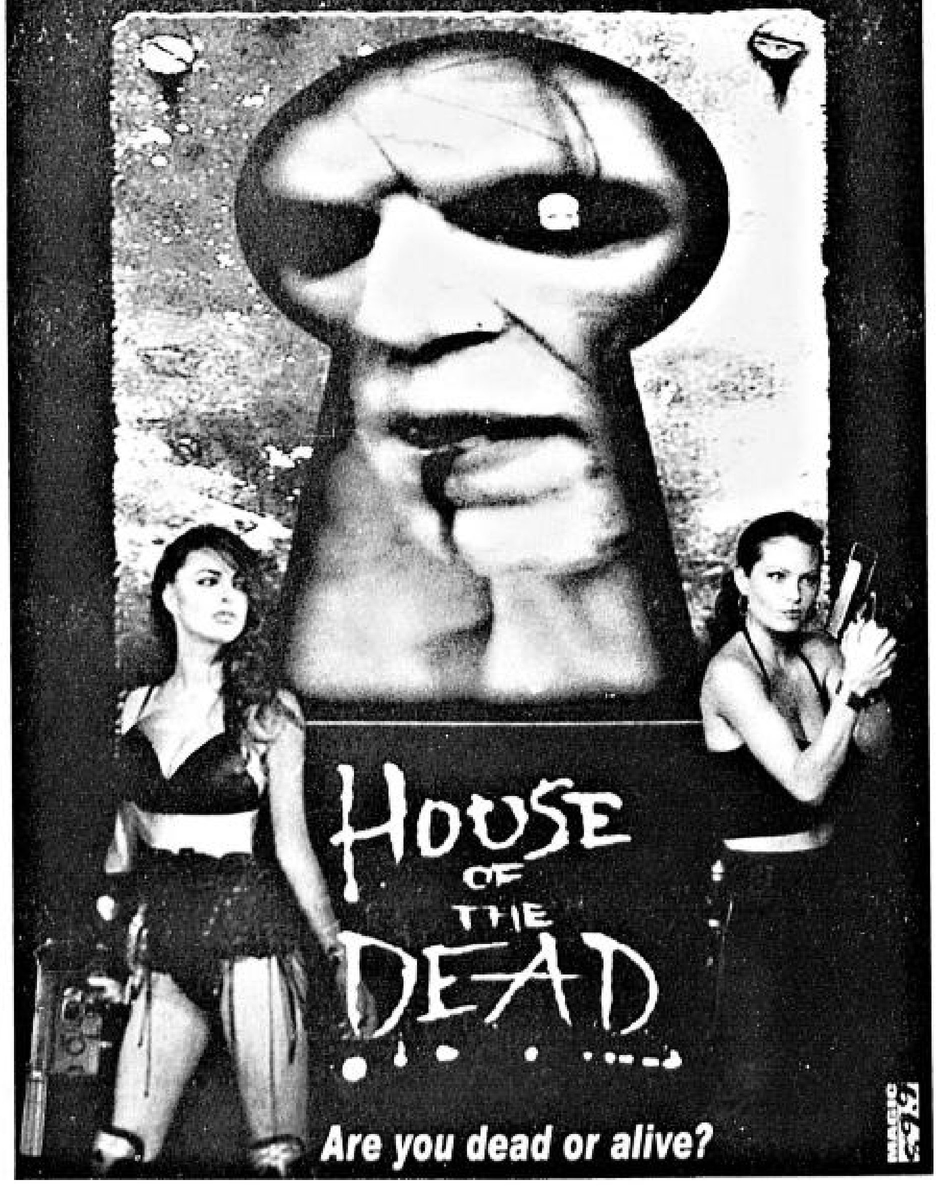
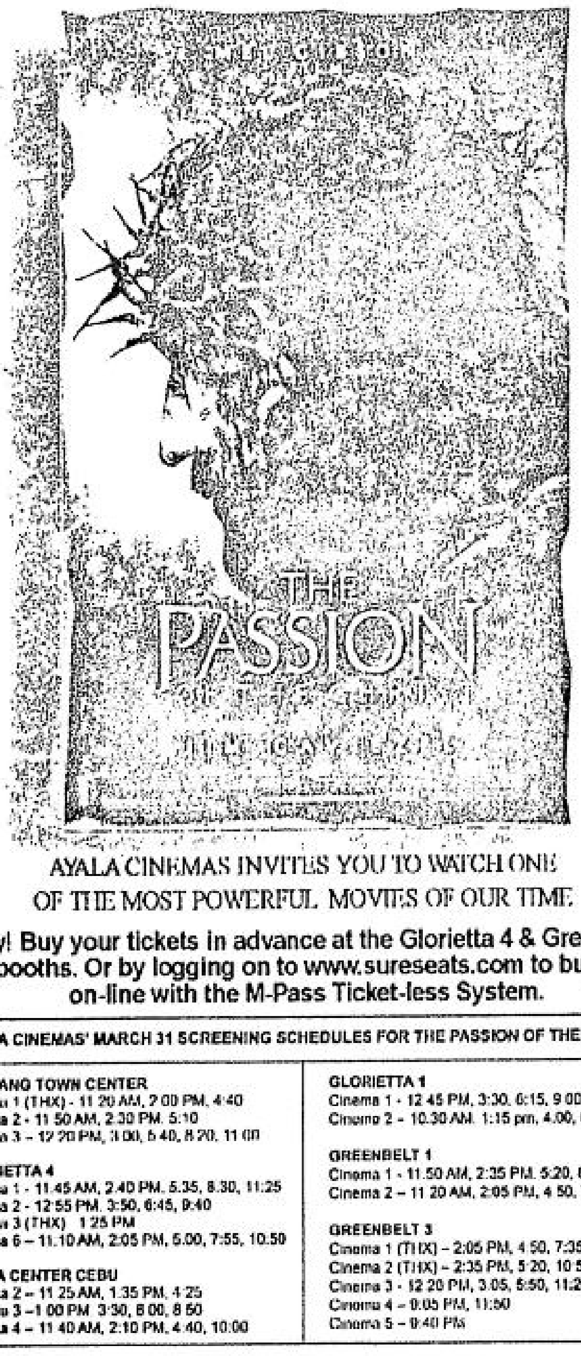
From the company that gave you "UNDERWORLD."

HUMANS vs. ZOMBIES
WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?


HOUSE OF THE DEAD
Are you dead or alive?

OPENS MARCH 31 AT AYALA CINEMAS


THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

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AYALA CINEMAS' MARCH 31 SCREENING SCHEDULES FOR THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Cinema 1 (THX) - 11:20 AM, 2:00 PM, 4:40
Cinema 2 - 11:50 AM, 2:30 PM, 5:10
Cinema 3 – 12:20 PM, 3:00, 5:40, 8:20, 11:00

GLORIETTA 4
Cinema 1 - 11:45 AM, 2:40 PM, 5:35, 8:30, 11:25
Cinema 2 - 12:55 PM, 3:50, 6:45, 9:40
Cinema 3 (THX) 1:25 PM
Cinema 6 – 11:10 AM, 2:05 PM, 5:00, 7:55, 10:50

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Cinema 2 – 11:25 AM, 1:35 PM, 4:25
Cinema 3 – 1:00 PM 3:30, 6:00, 8:50
Cinema 4 – 11:40 AM, 2:10 PM, 4:40, 10:00

GLORIETTA 1
Cinema 1 - 12:45 PM, 3:30, 6:15, 9:00
Cinema 2 - 10:30 AM, 1:15 pm, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30

GREENBELT 1
Cinema 1 - 11:50 AM, 2:35 PM, 5:20, 8:05
Cinema 2 – 11:20 AM, 2:05 PM, 4:50, 7:35, 10:20

GREENBELT 3
Cinema 1 (THX) – 2:05 PM, 4:50, 7:35, 10:20
Cinema 2 (THX) – 2:35 PM, 5:20, 10:50
Cinema 3 - 12:20 PM, 3:05, 5:50, 11:20
Cinema 4 – 9:05 PM, 11:50
Cinema 5 – 9:40 PM

For inquiries, call 752-7880 or 82 (Glorietta 4), 893-1254 (Glorietta 1), 757-3881 to 82 (Greenbelt 3), 750-4180 to 82 (Greenbelt 1) 850-6931 (Alabang Town Center) and 032-4158488 to 80 (Ayala Center Cebu)

MTRCB RATING: PARENTAL GUIDANCE 13
Parents are strongly cautioned in bringing along kids below 10 yrs. old because of some scenes that might stress their sensibilities.

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JOB Market

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CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND·EX

WISE GIRLS R18 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	SCOOBY DOO 2 GP 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00	SCOOBY DOO 2 GP 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:25
HIGHWAYMEN R13 12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20, 10:20	LOVE ACTUALLY R18 1:25, 4:10, 6:55, 9:40	50 FIRST DATES PG13 11:55, 2:00, 4:05, 6:10, 8:15, 10:20

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

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CINEMA 1
SCOOBY DOO 2
11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
GP

CINEMA 2
50 FIRST DATES
11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00
P13

Special screening of
PASSION OF THE CHRIST on Holy Thursday.
Advance ticket purchase for PASSION OF THE CHRIST is also available. • 722 4496
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

MUSIC MUSEUM
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From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:
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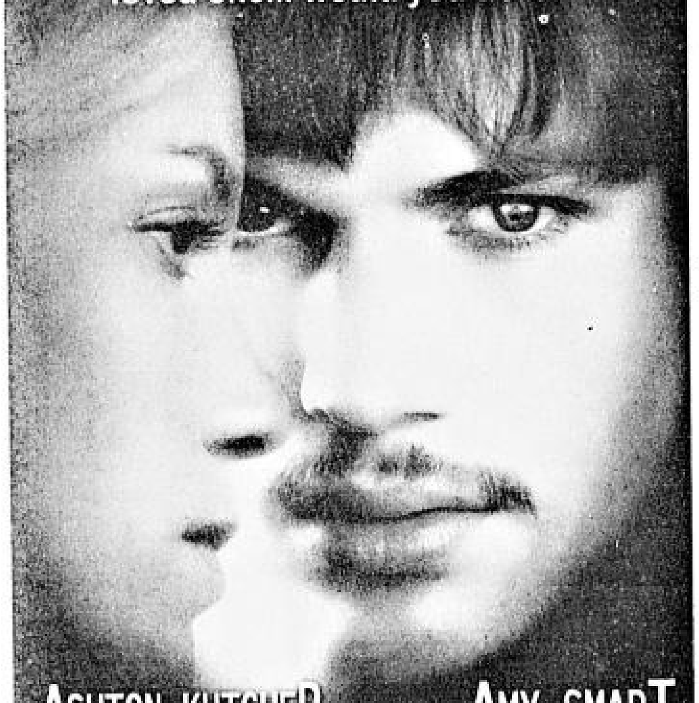
3RD WEEK
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP.
#1 MOVIE IN AMERICA
Hindi ka na magigising sa bangungot na 'to!
If you have the power to resurrect your loved one... would you do it?

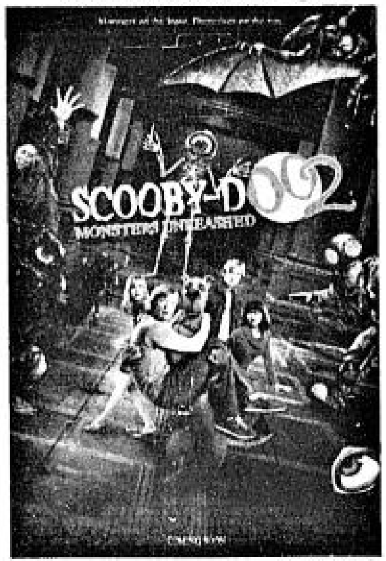


ASHTON KUTCHER AMY SMART
The Butterfly Effect
A TERRIFYING JOURNEY INTO THE UNKNOWN.
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FINAL DESTINATION 2

SM CINEMA
what to watch
KIDS TIME!

The Gang investigates the dastardly plans of a masked villain who is planning to take contol of the city of Coolsville by tampering with the "Monster Machine" that reproduces Mystery Inc's classic foes such as The 10,000 Volt Ghost, Captain Cutler and The Creeper. Their investigation leads them to the Coolsonian Museum where they are attending a book release red carpet event. Along the way they encounter the mysterious museum curator Patrick (Seth Green) and a pesky Reporter (Alicia Silverstone), with a reported romantic subplot between the Reporter and our beloved Fred.

now showing



SCOOBY-DOO 2
MONSTERS UNLEASHED
MTRCB Rating: GP
DIAL 8339999 for screening schedules

up next

April 10
Subject to MTRCB Rating

April 28
Subject to MTRCB Rating

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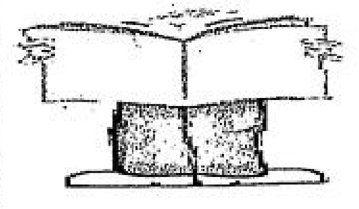

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2ND WEEK
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP.
JIM CAVIEZEL, stars as JESUS in "THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST."
Now, see him in a different role.
MAG-INGAT SA KALSADA.... SUMPA AT MALAGIM NA KAMATAYAN SAYO'Y NAGHIHINTAY.
EVIL HITS THE ROAD

JIM CAVIEZEL RHONA MITRA
HIGHWAYMEN

Hot Music in Dirty Dancing 2

Christina Aguilera

Black Eyed Peas

Carlos Santana

Dirty Dancing 2 , the sequel to the original boxoffice hit features a magnificient soundtrack that includes Christina Aguilera, Black Eyed Peas and Carlos Santana . The soundtrack is now available locally distributed by BMG records.

A streetkid, a socialite, a sensous dance, a perfect love story.

Havana. Eighteen-year-old Katey Miller brings an innate curiosity—and a smattering of Spanish—to her new life in Cuba's lush capital, where her father has taken an executive posting at Chrysler.

Schooled by her parents in the art of ballroom dancing, Katey is expected to join the smart set of American teenagers who are the Miller's neighbors at the exclusive Oceana Hotel. But Katey finds herself drawn instead to the proud, purposeful Javier- a streetkid who works part time as a waiter and who is also a brilliant dancer. Determined to learn the slinky, spectacular moves that Javier seems to know in his bones, Katey persuades him to partner with her in a prestigious national dance competition at a grand local nightclub. The Palace.

Katey knows that her parents won't approve. Meeting secretly in an out-of-the-way Havana nightclub, Katey and Javier practice their steps—their bodies aligning in a sensual harmony that mirrors the growing passion between them. As the night of the contest finally arrives, Katey and Javier are ready to take their place as a couple on the dance floor. Two people from different worlds, bonded together by a sensous dance.

ADVT.

SCOOBY-DOO 2
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THE MISSING
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GLORIETTA 4 &
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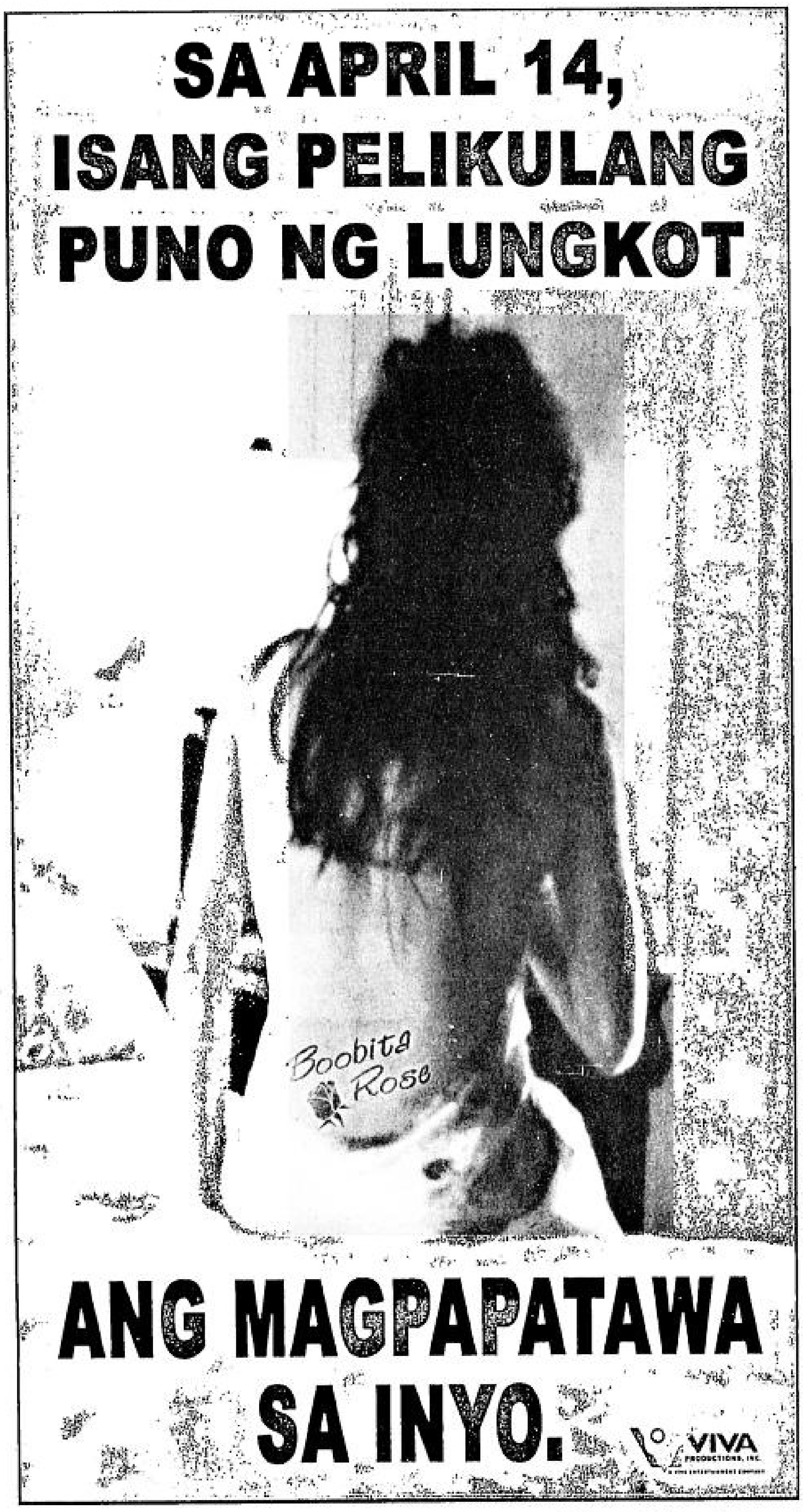
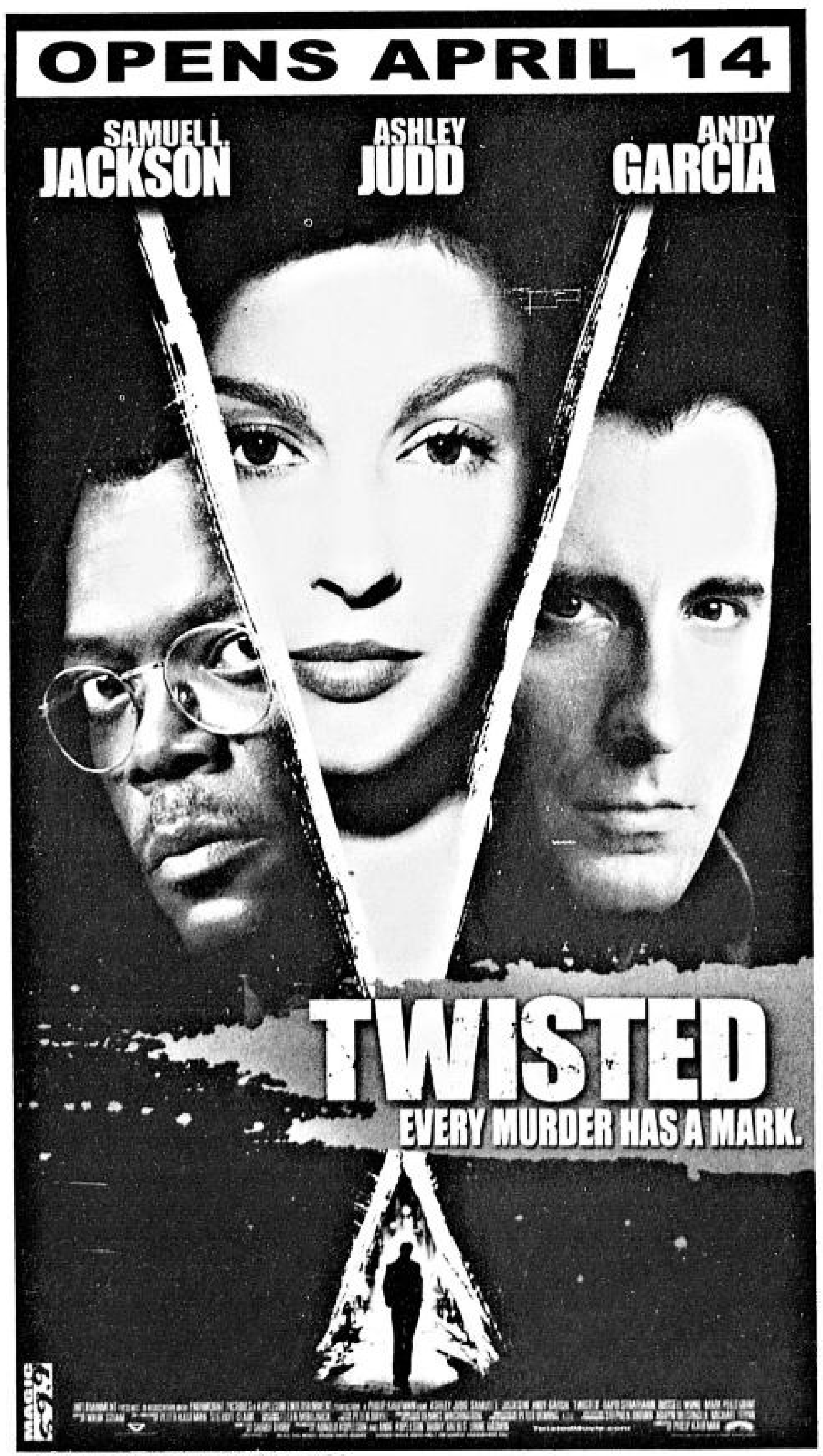
Tommy Lee Jones Cate Blanchett
From Ron Howard and Brian Grazer, the Oscar-winning director-producer team of A BEAUTIFUL MIND comes THE MISSING, an action-filled suspense thriller and a powerful drama of love, forgiveness and redemption
"Powerful and provocative. The Missing is another masterful production from one of the industry's best directors and two of its best actors."
- Paul Clinton, CNN
FOR SCREENING SCHEDULE, PLS. CALL 729-777
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

RELAX SEE A MOVIE


SA APRIL 14,
ISANG PELIKULANG
PUNO NG LUNGKOT
Boobita Rose
ANG MAGPAPATAWA
SA INYO.
VIVA PRODUCTIONS, INC.


OPENS APRIL 14
SAMUEL L. JACKSON
ASHLEY JUDD
ANDY GARCIA
TWISTED
EVERY MURDER HAS A MARK.
MAGIC 8

More movies on pages C4 and C6.

Opportunity
knocks
but once.
JOB Market
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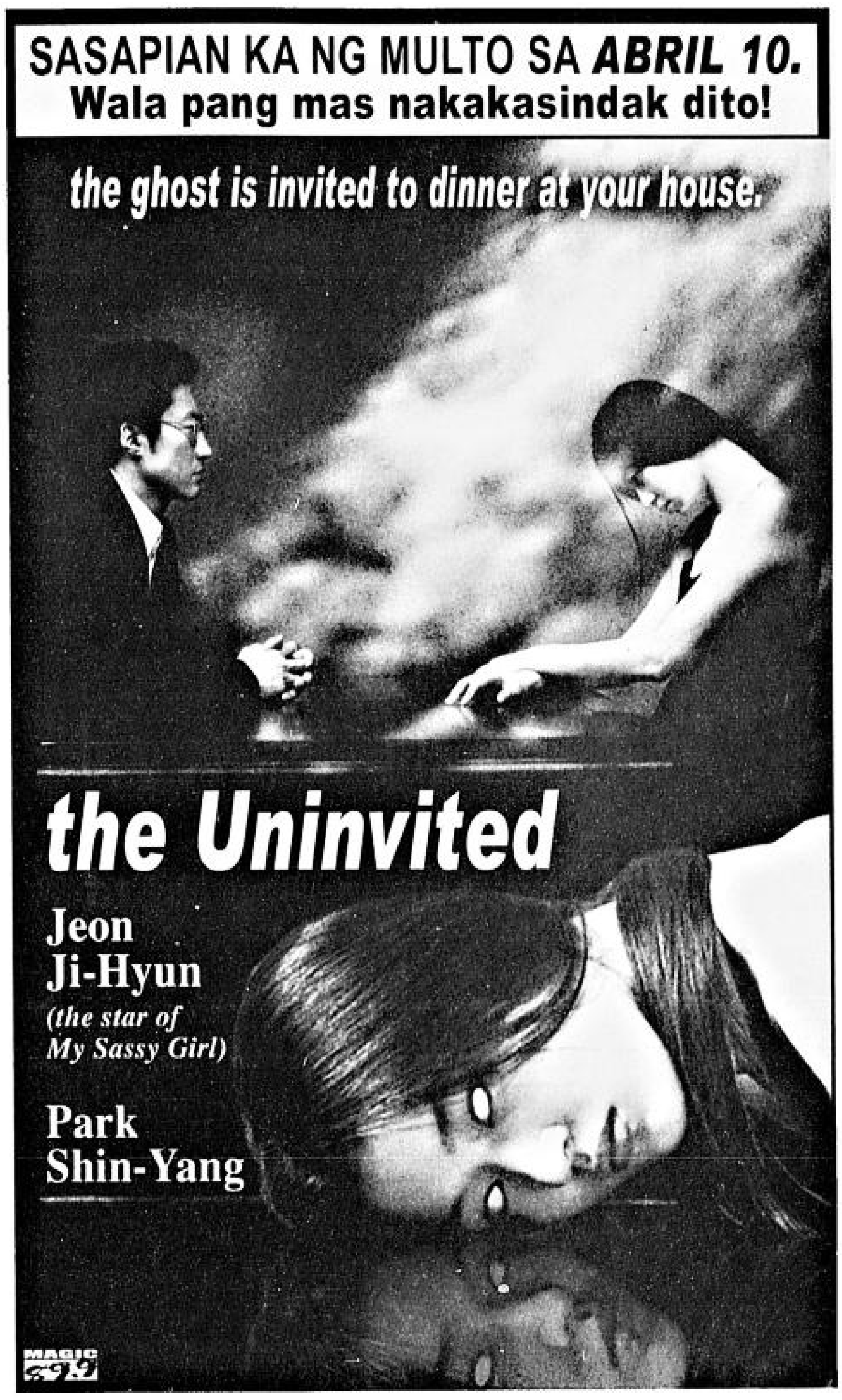
the Philippine Daily Inquirer.


SASAPIAN KA NG MULTO SA ABRIL 10.
Wala pang mas nakakasindak dito!
the ghost is invited to dinner at your house.
the Uninvited
Jeon
Ji-Hyun
(the star of
My Sassy Girl)
Park
Shin-Yang
MAGIC

Oppor-
tunity
knocks
but
once.
JOB Market
Read it every Sunday with
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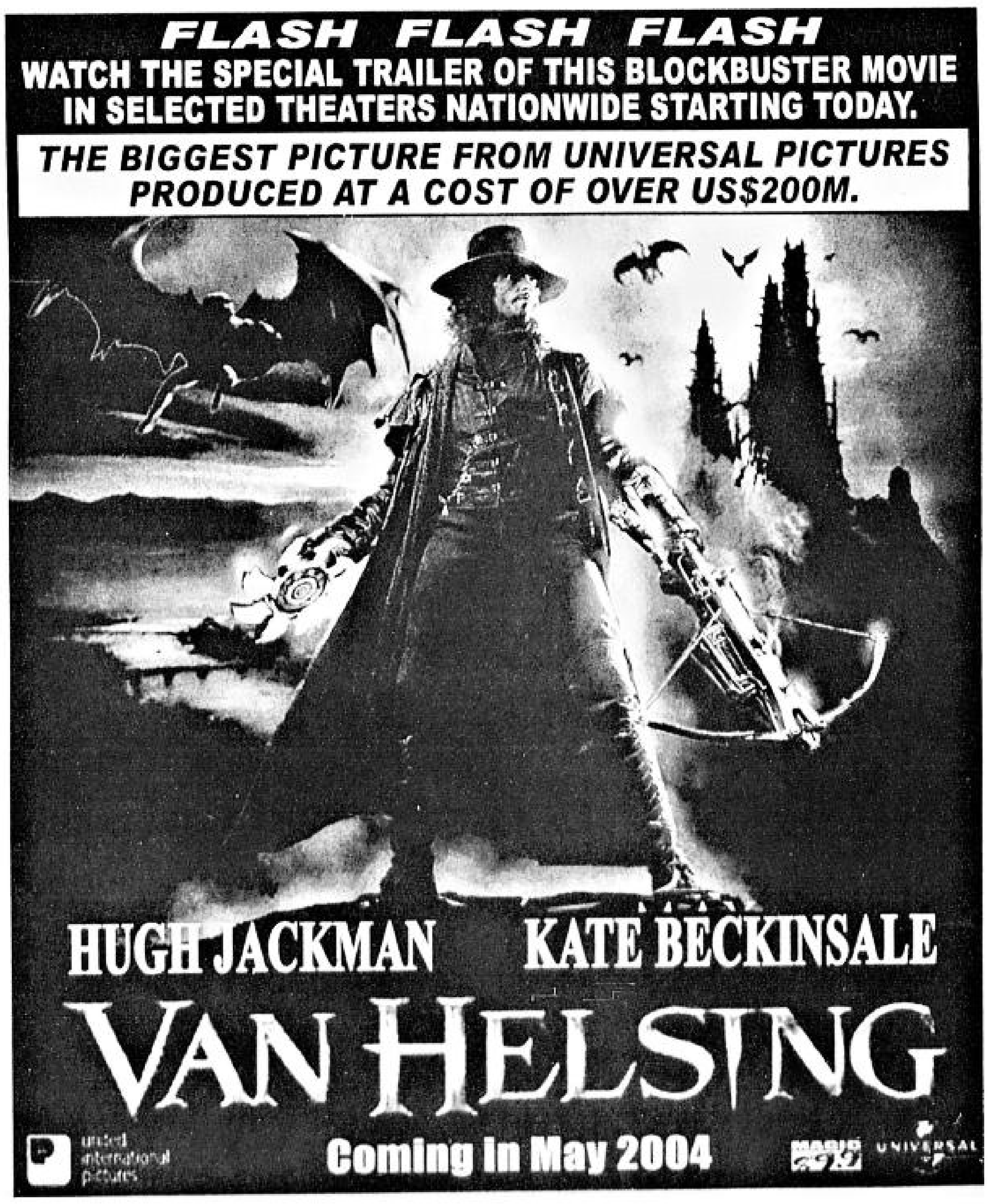
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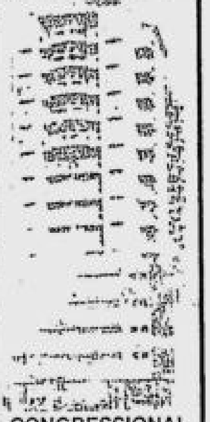
QUEZON CITY



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- 3-11 YRS. TO PAY
- P10,000+/MONTH
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MAKATI

KENSINGTON PLACE
FORT BONI GLOBAL CITY

Studio 28.95m²	1.4M
1BR 47m²	2.4M
2BR 65.11 - 86.03	3.2M
3BR 108.29 - 110.15	5.4M

COMM'L SPACES AVAILABLE
DBO 952-0182
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1.6M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mktl 0917-8313226

MANILA

Espana Towers 959T 09208309744

NR LA SALLE TAFT
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P4.480M 8903461 loc 34

nr UST, ESPANA TOWER
6873372 0917-8102903

MANDALUYONG

California Gardens SQ., Mandaluyong near Edsa 2BR 2TB w/view RFO 2004 P1.9M cel# 0917-8950368

Gov Place alg Shaw Blvd 3BR 2CG Furn 0917-8102903

PARANAQUE

P2.8M (neg) 2BR w/grge B'lving Cel#0917-4860518

PASAY

2BR Condo Unit & Sale Unit 1042 & 1044 Park Ave. Mansions Park Ave cor F. Sanchez St Pasay City Call Chi at 726-6376/28

PASIG

Millenium nr Ortigas 3br 3tb 1cg 6873372 0917-8102903

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

4 Sale Thse Mapayapa QC 4 Rent Thse Granwood QC Atty. Acuna 635-5071 - 73

CUBAO 1.5M No Int. 9132224

Eastwood City Condo
RFO 46m² 21 2.9M Net 721-7778 • 0917-8986045

PROJ8 3br 4.5M 0917-8493699

Sacrifice Sale Eastwood Parkview 1B 0917-8112260

SAN JUAN

2BR 2T&B 2.6M 671-4421

3BR G'hills 5.5M 671-4421

GHills Nr Unimart 3BRS P5.5M 671-4421 • 727-4840

LOT

★SUBIC 48has@200/m²
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QUEZON CITY

Ayala Hillside Estates
ALSO AYALA HEIGHTS, QC
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P250,000 per hectare
Call Nick 921-5718

PARANAQUE

RC3AR15 28.3
#221347.eps

KALOOCAN

1440m² w/ Bodega Ofc Bldg P14T/m² neg 426-5395 Sarah

RAINBOW VILLAGE 5 LA 216m² P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

MUNTINLUPA

KATARUNGAN VILL 298SM 942-4818 • 0916-3157445

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA 333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

QUEZON CITY

BLUERIDGE 292m² 724-6334

VILLA ESPANA LA 108.50m² P12,000/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

RIZAL

Alg Smulong Antpolo 3749m² good4gas station 09178102903

OTHER AREAS

PENINSULA DE PUNTA FUEGO
Beachfront 615sqm@P9,000/sqm Contact cel# 0917-8950368

Tagaytay Country Homes IV 630.5sqm Caliraya, Lumban Laguna 1500sqm 807-4443

TERRAZAS DE PUNTA FUEGO
Oceanview corner lot 406sqm@P7,550 /sqm cel# 0917-8950368

TOWN & COUNTRY LA 240m² P3,125/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

VILLA LIGAYA LA 149m² & 134m² P3,534/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BATANGAS

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA 613m² P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA 180m² P2,900/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

161m² METROSOUTH GEN TRIAS P2600/m² Tel.#0919-8736072

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA 128m² P2,900/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA 120m² P5,750/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST. CHARBEL DASMA LA 371m² P2,650/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAGUNA

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m² LA 240m² Vic 8903461 loc 25 / 27

AGRICULTURAL LANDS

BULACAN 1501m²=P1M&2ha@ P400/m² 9314466/9124573Beng

FACTORY/WHSE

P3.5M 450SQM MIA

For sale/lease: Marian Road Pque1600sqm Industrial Area Good Loc 823-2875 837-5419

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

RESORT

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22Lots Fr. 3M, H/L 16 up
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149m² Pasig Bayan
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QUEZON CITY

Alg Rd Cmnwealth 9218376

HOUSE

PARANAQUE

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P16T/MO BFP 827-8618

PASIG

3BR KAP 0919-2064003

QUEZON CITY

ACROPOLIS/GRNMEADOWS CORINTHIAN/VALLE 4-6BR P60-130T/mo 6337601-03

DUPLEX/U-HOUSE 9316144

New Hse N.Fairview 2BR2TB 3sty attic grge P15T 9830892

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Baguio City
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CAVITE

CITA ITALIA, Imus new hse 4159356 / 09207451096 Tess

LAGUNA

S JOSE AYL 0919-2064003

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

KALOOCAN

NEW 1BR•2BR COM'L
CLINIC•OFFICE•P6.5Tup
#162 P. Jacinto cor. #39 Biglang Awa
Caloocan 323-0175

MAKATI

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W/Prkng 22T neg • 910-1903

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MANDALUYONG

CTLPioneer 1BR P9T 929-9835

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MUNTINLUPA

3BR MATCOR 0919-2064003

PARANAQUE

TH Sucat 4BR 4TB 826-1150

PASAY

P10T/mo SF PC 826-7345

PASIG

3Bedrm Condo Unit Amberland Plaza Grace/Shirley 8109713 Residential Commercial Use

9F Renaissance 3000 Meralco Ave. New 80sqm 1BR 2TB Furn 1 Prkg Slot P25T 0918-9251136 / 8097064

ORTIGAS 2-3BR F-FURNISH P25-65T/mo T6337601-03

PACIFIC PLAZA 9/F 3BR 2 PS furn P90T/mo T6337601-03

QUEZON CITY

3Bedroom Twnhse Wedgewood Heights Grace/Shirley 6709713

61sm COMMERCIAL SPACE 14T 3BR 2T&B 108sm w/ parking 12T Valencia cor Castilla Q.C. 3727824/ 09175325838 Rowena

SAN JUAN

Ghills FF Stu P11T 929-9835

APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

2BR 118 JP Bautista nr Meralco 361-5864 / 363-6875

MAKATI

2BR 1 TB APARTMENT GRGE 12T 8820203 ; 09178318551

Nr AYALA 870-8848 11.5T

MANILA

2BR 864 Benny St. Sampaloc nr UDMC P8T 941-3550

3BR w/T&B 2272 Mayon St. Sta. Ana, Mla. T-5895288

Apt 7841746/6682108

nr UST 7841746/6682108

MANDALUYONG

Up&Dwn w/ Grge
32 Bulalakaw Nr Mun. Hall 5334951

QUEZON CITY

1BR pref student nr FEU Fairview 9396670

2BR 1TB grg back of bus terminal 4330078 ofc hrs 09189343299 Macky

2STY 2BR w/th Carport 1ride to SM North, NIA Village Tandang Sora Call 9265264

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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Legazpi Vill., Makati City
Unit 122 – 127 sqm
Unit 123 – 102 sqm
Unit 124 – 102 sqm
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cybelean@nxdsl.com.ph

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w/ Tel. Lines
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QUEZON CITY

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CUBAO P3.8 Std new 9124428

EDSA-Munoz 2BR2TB 9211050

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Bauan, Batangas
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2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

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QUEZON CITY

36sqm New nr Timog QC Col 09179213277, 3731623 Elly

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BAGUIO 8525305

PASONG TAMO MKT 5210752

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

FOR LEASE

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MERVILLE 8526827

TOWER I AYALA TRIANGLE Office space for lease 223 sqm Contact Ericson Wee @ 8987555

ZOBEL ROXAS MLA 5210751

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

COMMERCIAL

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Factory/Whse for Sale/ Rent Mrkna Heights Mrkna City 5040sqm 3Bldg with Canteen and Exec 4 Bedroom Flat 10 Car/Truck Garage land mark: Iglesia Ni Cristo Parang Mkna . . . Contact: Dinah S Coo 9482881 / 82

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QUEZON CITY

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P. Tuazon, Cubao, QC
3BDRM with attic
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Annie 7269811; 09164714377

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

FORD

01 FORD EXPLORER 4x4 P950T 4374427/09174121854

HONDA

04 City 0%dp 09173908413

•97 Civic Vtec 295T neg M+T 1st own orig paint 8060368•

'98 CRV 0920-9251308

CIVIC '99 Call 0917-5380510

MITSUBISHI

'03 Mit Adv SS A/T Gas Lke new 680T 9324551

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

FOR LEASE

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

NISSAN

'97 Cefiro 0920-9251308

TOYOTA

'98 GLI A/T 0918-9420180

98FX w/line P290T 639-6513

RUSH '92 Corolla XE A1 cond P140T neg DBO 09178354797

VAN/PICK-UP

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1T/Hiace 9136710/4333682

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1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

PCCI
SPECIAL MEETING
OF VOTING MEMBERS
2:00 P.M. 30 APRIL 2004
Quezon City Sports Club
Quezon City
Deadline for submission of proxies
5:00 p.m. April 23, 2004
at the PCCI Office

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRAINING 5271590

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late SHIRLEY F. SORIANO was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. No. 226; Page No. 44; Book No. XIX Series of 2004 before Notary Public Atty. Senen Jose C. Duadico of Makati City.
(PDI - March 14, 21 & 28, 2004)

NOTICE OF LOSS

This is to inform the public that the stock certificate no. C0562 of Becco Phils. Inc. at Orchard Golf & Country Club got lost. If no contest received new stock certificate will be issued.
(PDI-March 28,April 4&11, 2004)

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apply at:
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WANTED: A Filipino Japanese Joint Venture Company is in need of a Mech. Engr. w/ the ff qualifications: 1. Extensive knowledge in Auto-Cad design & detailed drawing at least 2 yrs experience. 2. Age 23 to 30 years old 3. Licensed Mechanical Engineer Please send resume with your Transcript of Records to: Fit in Trade and Services, Inc. 2514 A. Bonifacio St., Bangkal, Makati City Tel.# 889-1698 Fax#:751-0443

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A. MAINTENANCE PROJECT

- **MAINTENANCE SUPERVISORS (ELECTRICAL)** – BSEE. Minimum 5 yrs. relevant experience in petrochemical / chemical industry. Thorough experience using standard instruments, trouble shooting and repair of ground faults, repair of motors up to 500 HP, installation of motors and connection of starters and circuits, maintenance of battery standby systems. Read/ interpret of schematics diagrams. Trouble shoot, installation of conduits, enclosures, wirings, connections and controls up to 480V. Repair and maintenance of Cathodic protection system, overhead cranes, automatic overhead doors, power distribution systems up to 13.8 KV including repair and maintenance of 10 MVA HOLIC Transformers and repairs of rectifiers. Shall have excellent communication skills.
- **TRAINING INSTRUCTORS (ELECTRICAL)** – Same as above. In addition, shall be able to identify the need of the trainees and impart training and add value to the trainees. Shall organize the training literatures, training drawings, etc. Shall evaluate the trainees in regular interval and will prepare the trainee for client's interview.
- **SUPERVISORS, PIPING** – BSME Minimum 5yrs.relevant experience in Petrochemical/ Chemical Industries.
- **QC INSPECTORS, STATIC & ROTATING EQUIPMENT** – BSME. Minimum 5 years relevant experience in Petrochemical / Chemical Industries.
- **MAINTENANCE PLANNERS** – BSME. Minimum 5 yrs experience in chemical., refinery or petrochemical plants maintenance works. Good knowledge of tracking of the turnaround & shutdown progress, hands-on experience in Primavera, CASP-computer Aided Scheduling and Planning programs, SAP or other related planning software.
- **FOREMEN, MILLWRIGHTS (MAINTENANCE)** – Minimum 5 years relevant experience in petrochemical / chemical plant maintenance works.
- **MAINTENANCE MILLWRIGHTS** – Trade Certificate. Minimum 5 years relevant experience in Petrochemical/chemical plant maintenance works. Experience in overhauling of rotating equipments, reading drawings and instructions to install / remove rotating equipment or parts; to set, align and test run, trouble shoot rotating equipments like pumps, centrifugal and reciprocating compressors, steam turbine and gear boxes, etc. Knowledge of English language is must.
- **MAINTENANCE ELECTRICIANS** – Trade certificate. Minimum 5 years relevant experience in petrochemical/chemical plant maintenance works. Shall have thorough knowledge of using standard instruments. Able to trouble shoot and repair ground faults, electrical motors, maintenance of battery standby systems. Able to read /interpret wiring schemes, trouble shoot and repair/installation of conduits, enclosures, wiring connections and controls. Able to trouble shoot power distribution system, circuit breakers, high voltage rectifiers, transformers, EOT Crane, Cathodic protection
- **MACHINISTS** – Trade certificate. Minimum 5 years as Shop Machinist, to safely and effective operate machine tools such as: Lathes, Milling Machines, Surface Grinders, Drill Presses, Power Saws, Threading Machines. Able to read drawings and instructions to manufacture the parts / systems as required. Able to field measure parts / systems, sketch necessary drawings and manufacture items. Able to operate Lapping machines and reading optical flats.
- **VEHICLE MECHANICS** – Trade certificate. Minimum 5yrs relevant experience. Maintenance and repair of Heavy Equipments
- **HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS** – (TELESCOPIC CRANE, FORKLIFT, MANLIFT, LOADER AND BACKHOE)

B. OTHER CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

- QC ENGINEERS / INSPECTORS, MECHANICAL
- QC ENGINEERS / INSPECTORS, CIVIL
- QC ENGINEERS / INSPECTORS, WELDING
- QC ENGINEERS / INSPECTORS, ELECTRICAL & INSTRUMENTATION
- MECHANICAL ESTIMATORS - BSMechanical. Minimum 8yrs relevant experience in Oil & Gas and petrochemical industries.

NOTE : ALL QC ENGINEERS / INSPECTORS ITEM "B" ABOVE SHOULD HAVE MINIMUM 10 YEARS OF RELEVANT INDUSTRIAL EXPERIENCE, INCLUDING 6YEARS IN A GIVEN INSPECTION SPECIALTY, 4 YEARS OF WHICH HAVEBEEN IN OIL & GAS OR PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES.

Interested applicants may report for personal interview with the following :
Original and two sets copies of detailed resume, employment certificates, diplomas, PRC Certificate / ID if available, training / seminars certificate, valid passport, driving license if available and two pcs 2 x 2 colored photograph to

AERO ALLIED INTERNATIONAL, INC.
SUITE 802, ERMITA CENTER BUILDING 1350 ROXAS BLVD (COR. STA. MONICA ST)
ERMITA, MANILA 1000
TEL. NOS. 4001911/4001915
POEA-512-LB-102402-R. Accreditation No. 69573
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LORENZO SHIPPING CORPORATION and its Sea-based Union through the PTGWO concluded its Collective Bargaining Agreement last March 03, 2004 at the Swiss Inn Restaurant. From left to right: 1st Row: Hon. Conciliator Leonida Romulo (NCMB); Arturo Quiane (National Adviser – PTGWO); Capt. Romeo L. Malig (President – LSC); Paquito Arevalo (National VicePresident – PTGWO); Atty. Grace V. Ruiz (Vice President – LSC); 2nd Row: Atty. Edwin Lacierda (Counsel); Edward Bacorro (Legal Manager); Edralin Manapsal (Asst. Vice Pres. – LSC); Julita Valeros (Vice President – LSC); Ana Sabrina Vigo (HRD Manager – LSC) and Felicisimo Saldaña (Vice President – LSC)

(PAID ADVT.)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Ilocos Sur
VIGAN CITY

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION AND TO BID

1. The Local Government Unit (LGU) of Vigan City, Republic of the Philippines, has received a grant from Agencia Española de Cooperacion Internacional (AECI) towards the cost of the Raois-Mira Hills Parallel Transmission Line Project under the Integrated Water Supply and Management System for Vigan City and intends to apply the proceeds of this grant to eligible payment under the contract, for which the invitation for Prequalification and to Bid is issued.
2. The City of Vigan hereinafter referred to as the "Owner" intends to prequalify contractors for the construction of:

Name of Project : Proposed Additional Water Supply System for the Raois-Mira Hills Parallel Transmission Line Project
Location : City of Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Contract Duration: 60 Calendar Days
Scope of Work : Furnishing of equipment, materials, labor and tools for the complete Rehabilitation and Upgrading of the Raois Water Pumping Stations 1 and 2 including complete supply and installation of replacement electromechanical equipment
Approved Budget for Contract : P7,236,656.61*

3. Prequalification is open to firms and voluntarily joint ventures.

Schedule of application for prequalification and bidding as follows:

a. Submission of Letter of Intent and Issuance of Prequalification Documents	April 12 to 15, 2004 upon payment of non-refundable amount of P100.00
b. Submission of Duly Accomplished Prequalification Documents	Not later than 5:00 PM April 22, 2004
c. Issuance of Plans/Bid Documents to Prequalified Bidders	May 6-10, 2004 upon payment of non-refundable amount of P5,000.00
d. Site Visit/Bid Conference	Site Visit 10 a.m./Pre-bid Conference 2:00 p.m. on May 17, 2004
e. Submission/Opening of Bids	Not later than 3:00 p.m. May 31, 2004 at Bidding Room, Bids and Awards Committee, Vigan City

For issuance of Bidders Prequalification Form and Plans/Bid Documents, you may contact

The City Planning and Development Officer
City Hall, Vigan City
Tel. No. (077) 722-8772 Local 105

The City of Vigan reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive defects or formality therein, to accept bids considered responsive and most advantageous to the Government

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO P. RANCHES, JR.**
City Vice Mayor
Acting Chairman, Steering Committee
Spanish Assisted Projects in Vigan City

(PDI–March 28 & 30 2004)

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig
(632) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 109/112
Sales@heritagepark.com.ph
Mortuary and Crematory opening soon!

OBITUARIES

RATE
P245 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

Message of Thanks

Our thanks to all those
who offered masses, novenas and prayers;
sent flowers and messages of sympathy;
kept vigil and attended the funeral rites;
and who in countless ways condoled with,
helped and comforted us
in our moment of grief.

Thank you.

From the family
of the late

TELESFORO A. VEA

Our Dearly BELOVED

ARACELI BARREDO YLAGAN

"Ely"

(October 30, 1935 - March 26, 2004)
of Odiongan, Romblon

Peacefully joined our Lord on March 26, 2004
at the age of 68.

Brothers and sisters **CHED, OSCAR (†) & CHARITO, PEPE (†) & CORA, TOTOY & DIVINA, LINDA & NICK, DELIA & NIC, SUSAN**; nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Hope Chapel of Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be brought to Odiongan, Romblon on Monday, March 29, 2004.

Interment will be on April 2, 2004, Friday 8:00 AM at Odiongan, Romblon.

In lieu of flowers, donations for the construction of St. Joseph Chapel at Mainit, Odiongan, Romblon will be highly appreciated.

DR. BENJAMIN M. LIMSON

of Makati Medical Center

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on March 26, 2004
at the age of 80.

His bereaved wife **Revelina**; sons, daughters and in-laws **Melissa & Bob Sobrepeña, Albert Limson, Rhona & Tom Pobre, Edna Limson, Victor Limson, Loreta & Randy Cole**; grandchildren; brother **Dr. Antonio Limson**; and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel Q, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Friday, April 2, 2004 at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."

— **2 Corinthians 5:8**

PERGENTINO HIZON SANDICO

Died in the Grace of our Lord on March 25, 2004 at the age of 87.

His late wife : **Pilar Monroy Sandico (†)**

Children : **Pilar & Oscar Senar, Lourdes (†) & Antonio Siojo, Henedina & Henry Geronimo, Antonio & Ana Marie Hipolito**

Grandchildren : **Racquel & John Philip Carreon, Richard Senar, Ma. Patricia Siojo, Mark Paul Siojo, Ernesto Antonio Sandico, Ma. Antonette Sandico, Angeline Marie Sandico, Luis Antonio Sandico, Ana Lauren Sandico**

Great Grandchildren : **Rosanne Denise Carreon, Christine Danielle Carreon, Isabel Dominique Carreon**

Brothers & Sisters : **Mayorico & Jane Garcia, Benito Sandico (†), Sis. Mary Caridad (Pink Sisters), Luz (†) & Francisco Lagman, Fernando & Corazon Rosario, Orosia & Ignacio Ramos Sr., Donatila & Rodolfo Leveriza**

Sisters-in-law : **Gloria P. Monroy, Teresita P. Monroy, Victoria M. Rangel**

Nephews and nieces request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul. His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. On Monday, March 29, 2004, after the 10:00 a.m. Mass, his remains will be transferred to La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City for cremation.

VENERANDA VIRTUCIO VDA. DE BERMUDEZ

Peacefully joined her Creator and loving husband
***Nemesio** on March 23, 2004 at the age of 83.*

She is survived by her children **Chito & Chet, Sonia & Manuel, Monet & Gina, Teng & Nats, Gil & Nannie, Mel & Rolly**; grandchildren **Francis, John Paul, Jaggy, Christian, Tintin, Maritess, Iggy & Jabbie.**

Interment will be on Wednesday March 31, 2004 at the Nuestra Sra. de Sto. Rosario Cemetery, Cabuyao, Laguna after the 3:00 PM Mass at St. Polycarp Parish Church, Cabuyao, Laguna.

"In my father's house are many rooms
I'm going there to prepare a place for you
I will come back and take you to be with me
That you may also be where I am."
John 14:23

LUCIANO CO SIY

Now peacefully rests in the Grace and Goodness of our Lord on March 26, 2004 at the age of 52.

His loving family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Jacinto Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park).

Cremation will be on Wednesday, March 31, 2004 at Manila Memorial Park Crematorium after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

ROBERTO P. BORJA

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on March 9, 2004

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

DEATH NOTICE

JOSE V. BELLEZA
of Goa, Camarines Sur
Peacefully joined our Creator on March 25, 2004.
His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.
Cremation rites will be on March 31, 2004 at 4:00 p.m.

PACIFICO SALDE CABA
Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on Wednesday, March 24, 2004 at the age of 64.
His remains lie in state at his family residence at 209 Ermin Garcia St., Cubao, Quezon City.
Interment to be announced later.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

ANACORITA BOLIVAR RICABORDA

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on March 6, 2004

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, and messages of sympathy, and who, in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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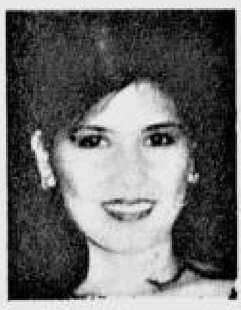
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Please be informed that **MRS. MARIVIC TORNO** of #390 I Bagong Bayan, Taguig, Metro Manila, has a pending warrant of arrest before the Metropolitan Trial Court of Makati, Crim. Case Nos. 321550-52 for violation of Batas Pambansa Blg. 22 or the Bouncing Checks Law. Any information as to her present whereabouts may be relayed to police or court authorities, or call 894-29-96 and 896-11-95.

(PDI – March 28, 2004)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given to the public that the Agent's Temporary Receipts (ATRs) listed below were reported lost/could no longer be accounted for:

ATR SERIAL NO.:	ATR SERIAL NO.:
639051-639100	639383-639392
639501-639550	639394-639400
639353,639355	884044
639358-639361	884051-884100
639364-639381	884151-884200

Any transaction resulting from the issuance of the subject ATRs will not be honored by Philamlife after this publication.

PHILAM LIFE
United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila

NOTICE OF OUTSTANDING WARRANT OF ARREST

This is to notify the public that **Ms. LEONOR MOSCARDON-NOLASCO**, is no longer connected with KTK Fujikura Philippines, Inc. (the "Company"). A criminal case for Estafa was filed by the Company against **Ms. LEONOR MOSCARDON-NOLASCO** in 1999 and the case is still pending in the Regional Trial Court of Quezon City for which a Warrant of Arrest remains outstanding in her name. Any person who can provide information that will lead the Authorities to the apprehension of Ms. Nolasco shall be rewarded by the Company. *

* Please contact Atty. Purisimo S. Buyco of Picazo Buyco Tan Fider and Santos Law Offices at 888 0999.

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UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS BAÑOS
Abelardo G. Samonte Hall (Administration Building)
College, Laguna 4030 Philippines
Phone (049) 536-2748; Tel/Fax (049) 536-3484
e-mail: ovcpd@adml.uplb.edu.ph / cpdo@mudspring.uplb.edu.ph

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development
COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS (INFRASTRUCTURE)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIG!BILITY AND TO BID
(RE-POSTING / RE-ADVERTISEMENT)

Sealed bids for the furnishing of labor and materials for the following projects will be received at the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development (OVCPD), Abelardo G. Samonte Hall, UPLB College, Laguna not later than the time and dates indicated below and at which place, time and dates said bids will be publicly opened.

1. EXTENSION OF LABORATORY ANNEX BUILDING, NEW AREA, NCPC Compound, UPLB College, Laguna.
2. RENOVATION AND EXPANSION OF OLD AGRONOMY BUILDING, Pili Drive, UPLB College, Laguna.
3. IMPROVEMENT OF FORMER NCPC OLD BUILDING (FOR LWRD AND AFSD, IAE, CEAT), Old Area, NCPC, Pili Drive, UPLB College, Laguna; and
4. IMPROVEMENT OF FORMER NCPC LABORATORY BUILDING (FOR CIRDUP, IAEL, CEAT), Old Area, NCPC, Pili Drive, UPLB College, Laguna.

Interested bidders who wish to pre-qualify may obtain eligibility statement forms (PRE-C) at the BAC Secretariat, Physical Plant Maintenance and Services Office (PPMSO), UPLB College, Laguna from **March 29 to April 02, 2004** and should submit the same not later than **April 16, 2004** to BAC Secretariat, PPMSO, UPLB, College, Laguna. It is mandatory that the contractor presents the original copy (with a photocopy) of the current PCAB Contractor's License with the Integrated Certificate of Registration and Classification of Contractors for Government Infrastructure Projects for authentication.

ACTIVITIES	PROJECT NO. 1	PROJECT NO. 2	PROJECT NO. 3	PROJECT NO. 4
1. Issuance of proposal forms and other related documents	May 03 to 07, 2004	May 03 to 07, 2004	May 03 to 07, 2004	May 03 to 07, 2004
2. Cost of Bid Documents (non-refundable)	P2,700.00	P2,500.00	P2,500.00	P2,500.00
3. Site Inspection	May 12, 2004 8:30 A.M.	May 12, 2004 9:15 A.M.	May 18, 2004 8:30 A.M.	May 18, 2004 8:30 A.M.
	Meeting Place: CPDO/PPMSO Compound			
4. Pre-Bid Conference	May 12, 2004 10:00 A.M.	May 12, 2004 11:00 A.M.	May 18, 2004 9:30 A.M.	May 18, 2004 10:30 A.M.
	Venue: OVCPD, Abelardo G. Samonte Hall, UPLB			
5. Submission of Bid Proposals	May 25, 2004 9.00 A.M.	May 25, 2004 9.00 A.M.	June 01, 2004 9.00 A.M.	June 01, 2004 9.00 A.M.
6. Opening of Bid Proposals	May 25, 2004 9:15 AM.	May 25, 2004 10:15 A.M.	June 01, 2004 9:15 A.M.	June 01, 2004 10:15 A.M.

The application for eligibility is open to all local Filipino contractors who are registered, categorized and classified by PCAB as contractors for government infrastructure projects with Size Range (Category) and Kind of Project (Classification) as Small B – Buildings (Minimum Category).

Proposal forms and other related documents are available for issuance to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee at the BAC Secretariat, PPMSO, UPLB, College, Laguna.

All particulars relative to procurement planning up to contract implementation and termination shall be governed by the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, and other applicable rules and regulations.

The UP Los Baños reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities in the bids received and to accept such bids as may be considered most responsive and advantageous of the University.

(Sgd.) CASIANO S. ABRIGO, JR.
Vice Chancellor and Chair

(PDI–March 28, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

PHILIPPINE 2000

17 March 2004

INVITATION TO BID
PARCEL TWO (2) WEST SIDE
Welfareville Property

The TRUSTEE COMMITTEE for the Welfareville Property, through the Welfareville Development Project Bids and Awards Committee (WDP-BAC), is inviting interested parties to participate in the bidding for the sale of a portion of the Welfareville property located in Mandaluyong City known as **Parcel Two-West Side** with an approximate area of 288,770 square meters.

Interested parties shall submit their Letters of Intent on **April 20, 2004** not later than 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon and address the same to:

The Chairperson
Welfareville Development Project
Bids and Awards Committee (WDP-BAC)
c/o Asset Management Group, Ground Floor
DSWD New Building, Constitution Hills
Diliman, Quezon City

The Bid Documents/Terms of Reference (TOR) for the sale of said Parcel Two shall be ready for distribution on **March 22, 2004** to **April 19, 2004** at a non-refundable cost of Php5,000.00 for each set of Bid Documents/TOR payable to DSWD in cash or manager/s check. The Bid Documents/TOR shall be obtained from **Ms. Ma. Suzette M. Agcaoili, CESO III, Director IV, Asset Management Group** at the abovementioned address, telefax no. 931-9145 or tel no. 931-8101 loc. 142.

Two Pre-Bid Conference shall be held, the first on **April 20, 2004** and the second on **April 27, 2004.** Both shall be held at 2:01 o'clock in the afternoon at the Boardroom, 4th Floor, DSWD New Building, Constitution Hills, Diliman, Quezon City. Only those who have submitted Letter of Intent and secured the Bid Documents/TOR shall be allowed to participate in the Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadline for submission of bids is May 26, 2004, 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon. Immediately thereafter, or at 2:01 o'clock in the afternoon, the bids shall be opened. Submission of bids and opening thereof shall be at the Boardroom, 4th Floor, DSWD New Building Constitution Hills, Diliman, Quezon City.

The **TRUSTEE COMMITTEE**, through the WDP-BAC, reserves the right to reject any or all Letters of Intent or bids without offering any reason, waive any defect or required formality therein, assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify a bidder for any expenses or losses that he may have incurred in the preparation of the Letter of Intent or bid or resulting from such preparation, and accept the bid which is deemed most responsive and advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **MYLENE G. ALBANO**
Assistant Secretary, DENR
Chairperson, WDP-BAC

(PDI - March 28, April 4 & 11, 2004)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO APPLY TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
NETRC 04-03-25

The Department of Education through the National Educational Testing and Research Center (NETRC) is inviting all security printers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following packages.

Package	Description	Approved Budget
A	Printing and Packaging of 2004 National Achievement Test (NAT) Test's Booklets (Second Year HS Students) and Delivery and Retrieval Of TBs and Answer Sheets	Php 9,500,000.00
B	Printing of NAT Non-Classified Materials	Php 500,000.00

All interested printers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of Letter of Intent and upon payment of non-refundable fee of Three Hundred Pesos (P300.00) starting March 29, 2004 – April 16, 2004 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A Mabini bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at http://www.deped.gov.ph.

A pre-bid conference will be held on April 15, 2004, 10:00 AM at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. 1, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on April 28, 2004 at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepED-BAC

(PDI – March 28 & April 4, 2004)

Opportunity knocks but once.

JOBMarket ONLINE
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

ADD International dispatched 136 Filipino workers to its client, Venetian Macau, Ltd. last February 29, 2004. The Venetian Macau is the Sands (Las Vegas) new investment in Macau. The first phase of the US$250 million project opens in April 2004.

Teaching students through their individual learning styles

STUDENTS are not failing because of the curriculum. Students can learn any subject matter when they are taught with methods and approaches congruent to their learning styles.

This is a core belief of the Center for Learning and Teaching Styles Philippines (CLTS) which is advocating the use of the Learning Styles Questionnaire or LSQ in both private and public schools as an effective way to teach students through their individual learning styles.

The LSQ was developed by the internationally renowned educator Dr. Rita Dunn, director of the International Learning Styles Network, where CLTS Phils. Is a board member. The LSQ is in response to the Department of Education's call for more effective assessment of student learning.

Among the theoretical assumptions with regard to enhancing students' learning retention and achievement with the use of LSQ are:

- Everyone has learning style strengths, but these necessarily differ per person.
- Teachers can learn to use learning styles as a cornerstone of their instruction.
- Students can learn to capitalize on their learning style strengths when confronted by new or difficult information materials.

The use of LSQ also facilitates the redesigning of a conventional classroom and the use of specific strategies to respond to varied students' learning styles.

LSQ is ideal for students from grade 3 up to the college level. It is best to administer it between now and the start of the next school year, so the changes generated through the in the questionnaire may be implemented during the summer in-service teacher training. For particulars please call the CLTS Phils. Secretariat at 374-4967 or 374-0973.

Philippine TIPS
TUBERCULOSIS INITIATIVES FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Invitation for Grant Application

Philippine Tuberculosis Initiatives for the Private Sector (Philippine TIPS), a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under USAID Contract Number 492-C-00-02-00031 and implemented by a consortium led by Chemonics International Inc., is soliciting applications for its

Grants Program for DOTS Replication/Expansion

This Grants Program aims to increase the number of DOTS-practicing and DOTS-certified private physicians, increase the number of certified DOTS units and achieve an 85% treatment success rate in private DOTS centers. The Grants Program shall provide technical and financial assistance to set up tangible DOTS units operated by private entities. The DOTS Units should be located in the following sites: Laoag City, Dagupan City, Angeles City, Cabanatuan City, City of Manila, Quezon City, Bacoor, Batangas City, Lucena City, Naga City, Puerto Princesa City, Cebu City, Iloilo City, Roxas City, Bacolod City, Dumaguete City, Tacloban City, Cagayan de Oro City, Ozamis City, Cotabato City, Zamboanga City, and Davao City.

The Grants Program is open to local not-for-profit, for-profit and non-government organizations, provided they are legally registered in and recognized under the laws of the Philippines. Eligible applicants include: medical colleges, hospitals, clinics, HMOs, workplaces, pharmacies, health service provider networks and health service provider coalitions. Government entities and individuals are not eligible to apply.

To know more about the Grants Program for DOTS Replication/Expansion and its latest update, please visit the Philippine TIPS website at www.philtips.com. Interested parties can send Letters of Interest on or before April 30, 2004 to DOTSFund@philtips.com. Inquiries can also be sent by post to this address.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Regional Field Unit 12
S.K Pendatun St., Cotabato City
Telephone # (064) 421-3299
TeleFax No. (064) 421-3789

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Agriculture, Regional Office No. 12, Cotabato City invites all interested dealers/suppliers of fertilizers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the procurement of Urea Fertilizers to be distributed to the following provinces:

1. Cotabato Province
2. Sultan Kudarat Province
3. Saranggani Province
4. South Cotabato Province

Approved Budget **P9,769,500.00**

Minimum required Bid Security is One percent (1%) of the Approved Budget if in the form of Cash, Certified check, Cashier's check, Manager's check, Bank draft or irrevocable Letter of Credit and Two and half percent (2 1/2%) of the Approved Budget if in the form of Surety Bond.

Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent and eligibility requirements shall be on April 6, 2004, at the Office of the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Department of Agriculture, Regional Office No. 12, Cotabato City.

Issuance of Bid documents, which shall be obtained at the office of the Supply Officer, Department of Agriculture, Region XII, Cotabato City will be on April 12, 2004.

Pre-bid conference will be on April 13, 2004 at 9:00 o' clock in the Morning.

Deadline for the submission of Bids will be on April 26, 2004 at 9:30 in the Morning and the opening of bids shall be on April 26, 2004 at 10:00 o'clock in the Morning at the Office of the BAC Chairman, Department of Agriculture, Region XII, Cotabato City.

Bid proposals exceeding the stated Approved Budget shall be rejected outright. All bids shall be marked "DO NOT OPEN BEFORE (date & time of opening of bids)" and addressed to:

The Chairman, BAC Department of Agriculture,
Regional Office No. 12
Cotabato City

The Department of Agriculture reserves the right to reject any and or all bids, waive defects or formality therein, and accept responsive proposals most advantageous to the government and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidders for expenses and losses that may be incurred in the preparation of Bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) ABDUL WAHAB A. BAYAO
Vice-Chairman, BAC
Officer-in-Charge

(PDI – March 28 & April 3, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
THIRD ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROJECT
DIVISION PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT
Division of Kalinga
Bulanao, Tabuk, Kalinga

Invitation for Bids (IFB)
IFB No. KAL-003SBP-2004

March 28, 2004

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), towards financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders classified by IAC and PCAB as at least Small B for General Building and from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under JBIC Loans (Nov 1987).
2. The Division Bids and Awards Committee (DBAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following proposed Bid Packages:

Package No. KAL-07-020	Repair of One (1) unit – Three (3) Classrooms School Building at Kinama ES and Repair of One (1) Unit – Two (2) Classrooms School Building at San Pedro ES, both in the Municipality of Rizal, Kalinga
Package No. KAL-01-027	Construction of One (1) unit – One (1) classroom TEEP Mono grade Type School Building @ Gawa-an ES Gawa-an, Balbalan, Kalinga
Package No. KAL-01-028	Repair of One (1) unit – Three (3) Classrooms School Building @ Pantikian, Balbalan, Kalinga
Package No. KAL-01-029	Repair of One (1) unit – Four (4) Classrooms School Building @ Dao-angan ES, Dao-angan, Balbalan, Kalinga
Package No. KAL-04-035	Construction of One (1) unit – One (1) Classroom TEEP Mono grade Type School Building @ Baglayan, Pasil, Kalinga
Package No. KAL-09-039	Construction of One (1) unit Two (2) Classrooms TEEP Mono grade Type School Building @ Tulgao West, Tinglayan, Kalinga.
Package No. KAL-10-(SONA-06-2004)	Construction of One (1) unit – One (1) Classroom Multigrade Type TEEP School Building @ Addang Primary School, Balawag, Western Tabuk District, Kalinga.

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at TEEP-DPISU Office with Address at DepEd Division Office of Kalinga, Bulanao, Tabuk, Kalinga for a non-refundable fee of **ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (Php 1,500.00)** for each set. A pre-bidding conference will be held at the same address on **April 12, 2004 at 9:00 A.M.** interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bid shall be valid for a period of **one hundred eighteen (118) calendar days** after bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to the Division Bids and Awards Committee (DBAC), TEEP DPISU Office, DepEd Division Office of Kalinga, Bulanao, Tabuk, Kalinga on or before **2:00 P.M. of April 27, 2004**, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

(Sgd.) ALFREDO D. BUDADEN
DBAC Chairman

(PDI – March 28, 2004)

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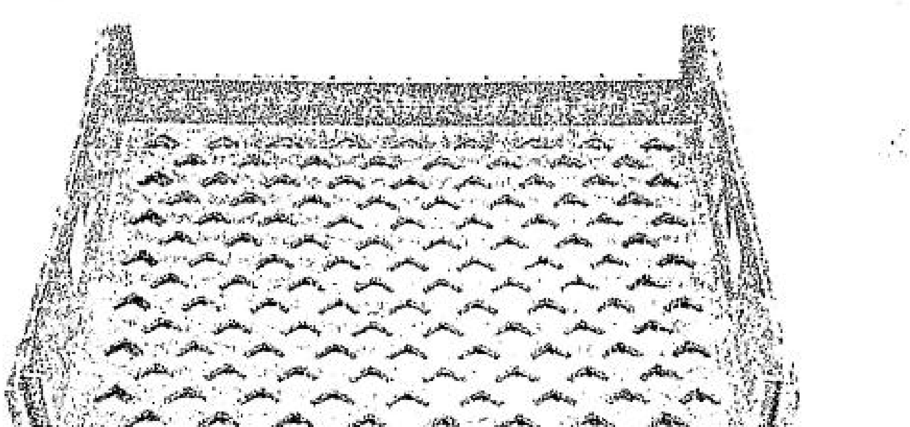

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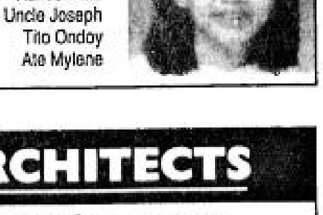

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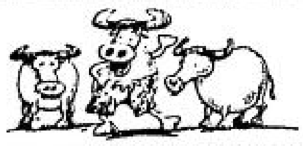

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The movie in Rufa Mae's mind

By Nini Valera

RUFA MAE: No airhead

PICTURE actress Rufa Mae Quinto as a well-endowed but dumb blonde and you'll have a good idea of what "Masikip sa Dibdib" is all about.

Watch the movie that has been playing in Rufa's mind for the longest time when it hits movie houses this April and you'll get a surreal feeling that the actress, who has elevated dumbness into high art, has the smarts after all.

Not that you'll rave about the movie directed by Bb. Joyce Bernal. But it's guaranteed to make you laugh the way it did this writer, who viewed it on a computer monitor from a VHS format even before the movie was color-graded and post productioned.

What might be more amazing is that Rufa, 25, fondly called Booba by the people who hover around her, had the foresight to produce the film herself.

She takes her cue from the tough-as-nails Hollywood ladies like Drew Barrymore, who scored in the box office with her 21st century spin on the 70's television series "Charlie's Angels."

"I just had to produce the movie myself," said Rufa in Filipino, with laid-back earnestness. "No one might do it if I didn't."

But it did not cost the actress, who's known for her astuteness in handling her hard-earned money, several millions and several sleepless nights to produce the movie as a joint venture with Viva Films.

"About P5 million," is her estimate of her stake in the film, which, she said, is a 70-30 partnership with Viva. "I did it as an industrial partner. I actually parted with very little cash."

But Rufa had to fork over her talent fee for the Metro Manila Film Festival blockbuster "Captain Barbell" where she played the villainess Icy, as well as her fee for the Booba role in "Masikip."

Defying genres, pretensions

Loosely based on Rufa's life, the movie defies genres and pretensions. It could be best described as a dark comedy with no deus ex machina to save the day and Booba. It ends with her dysfunctional family disintegrating further after the characters, including Booba, fail to redeem themselves. But the process to disintegration is the high point of the movie. It is what makes the film different, a difference that could be successful in raising the bar of local films or breaking the lucky streak of Rufa, who has yet to appear in a movie that did not fly in the box office.

That the characters in the dysfunctional family in the movie mirror the flawed siblings and parents of Rufa is a way of purging the pain that haunts the actress.

"I was very young when I became the breadwinner," she said. "There were times that I wanted to give up, especially when the money does not seem to be coming fast enough. But I am happy that I am able to take over in caring for my younger siblings when my parents became so helpless in rearing them."

No secret

It is no secret that Rufa has two sets of siblings, one set each from her father and mother, making them nine in all. It is also no secret that Rufa's mother had been into drugs so that the eldest child, who had been raised, fed and schooled by her maternal grandmother, had been forced by her circumstance to take on the role of mother and provider to the brood.

"But they help themselves so it is not futile to help them," Rufa revealed.

Two of her siblings on her father's side are both studying at the University of the Philippines. Her younger siblings from her mother's failed relationship with another man do not give her the usual troubles teenagers are known to get into.

"They are all proper young people who have no vices," said Rufa, who is always the first to defend her own. "They do not give me problems."

Producing the movie was also a breeze for the actress, who had to tap her friends to appear in cameo roles without pay or for only an honorarium. These are singers Regine Velasquez, Ogie Alcasid, Lani Misalucha,

THE MOVIE/ C4

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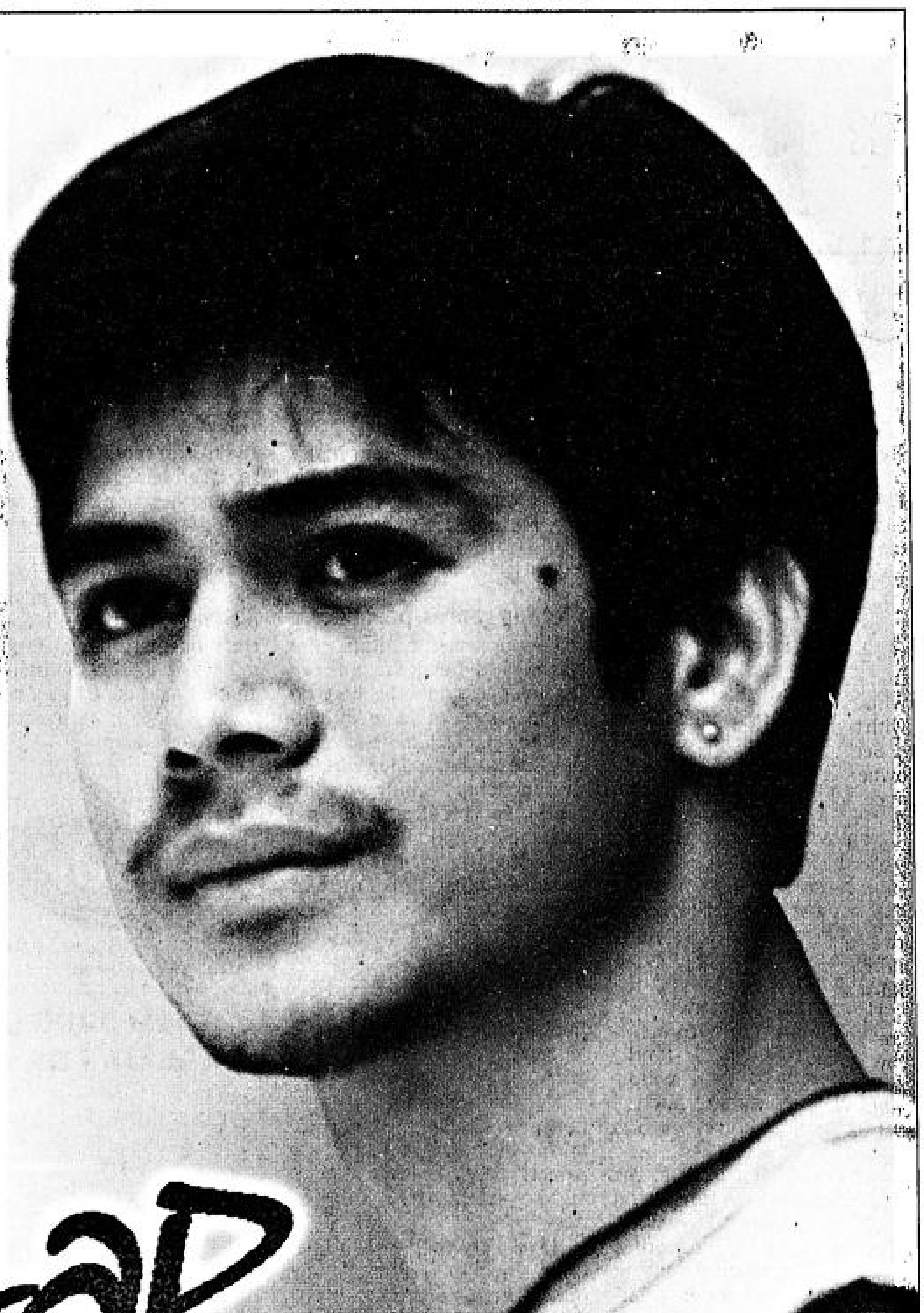

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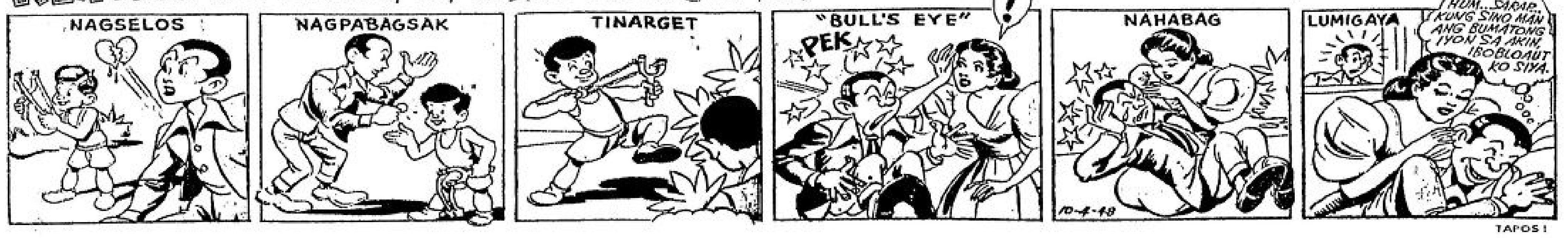
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TAPOS!

Dolphy: much respected, much loved

WHAT **Gabby Lopez** totally miscalculated is just how much **Rodolfo V. Quizon**, a.k.a. Dolphy, is revered in the entertainment industry. Now he is finding out the hard way that to mess with the King of Comedy is to mess with the very constellation of stars.

Seems strange, though, that the owner of the television network that once upon a time boasted of keeping the biggest stars in the business should now appear clueless. To not even know that in this business, everyone bows—with awe, respect, thank yous, and something akin to love—to *Mang* Dolphy, the 75-year-old comedian steeped in the best of old-school convention.

That Gabby should suddenly "retire" this comedian from ABS-CBN now appears—at its kindest, a case of bad timing; at its ugliest, a case of cold-blooded corporate write-off; and at its shadiest, a case of Media and Malacañang contracting a sweetheart deal.

Whatever that finally reveals itself as, one thing is certain: There is no one in ABS today who is not thinking he can be next.

The logic becomes: If ABS can do this to an icon who gave them 24 of his best years—two with its radio network for "Buhay Artista," 10 with its television station for the same show, and 12 for "Home Along the Riles" and "Home Along the Airport"—then no one is safe.

If a network can just cancel a show-biz institution as it wills, even one who has made the ultimate decision to sell to its archives his legacy of films—then nothing is sacred.

Overnight, Gabby Lopez has made it hard for people to believe they can ever be "*kapamilya*."

Restless in show biz

Not hours after news broke that Dolphy's "Home Along the Airport" would be taken off the air, his fellows at the Mga Artista Para Kay FPJ were in agitated discussion to do one or all of the following: fete him with a party, call for a press conference, honor him with a tribute.

The big party was ruled out only because **FPJ**, characteristically cautious, did not want anything so loud or grand. He cannot have the public thinking, said his supporters, that he was beating this for its political capital—even if it is, indeed, an election windfall for him.

So instead, last Monday FPJ and **Susan Roces** surprised Dolphy with a visit to the set where the comedian was filming a campaign video for him. The party became three tables shared by show-biz friends, with a repast that a producer present described as: "*Simple lang*, not really party food. Just *pancit*, *isda na masarap*, beef with veggies, nothing fancy. *Ang importante naroon kami* for Dolphy."

The press conference, which reporters had been informed about and which Mother Lily had been all set to host, was also canceled, reportedly because FPJ was, again, not keen on anything so noisy. He would not have his friend Dolphy getting into bigger trouble, said his supporters.

As it was, Dolphy himself declined to attend any press conference, even one held on his behalf. "*Ayoko*," he is quoted as saying. "*Ayokong magsalita*."

JUICE

Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon

Earlier, a restless **Erap** had been calling from jail—if the man can address an entire rally from jail, he can certainly take a meeting from it—to say that the industry had to do something fast. "*Aping-api naman si* Dolphy *niyan!*" he is said to have complained to two show-biz allies.

In the days that followed, **Richard Gomez**, a staunch FPJ supporter, would call **President Macapagal-Arroyo** "*sinungaling*" on "TV Patrol" for denying that she knew about Dolphy even having a show—a show in which she had actually asked to appear in the early months of her presidency.

It is not clear how much of an uproar the "*sinungaling*" footage caused within ABS, but it is clear that the footage never made it to the station's "Insider" telecast that night.

Meantime, offers simply began pouring in for Dolphy.

The *comedian* who had just been stripped of a show that earned him P400,000 per episode, the *father* whom everyone knew gave away whatever he earned to his various children and the sundry folk who called on him all the time, the *senior citizen* with the bypass, who conducted himself with a dignity not always associated with native comedy—was finally getting some of that goodness back.

Vic Sotto's production outfit is said to have quickly offered Dolphy a television show of his own. By now, **Mother Lily** and **Joel Lamangan** would have met with the comedian with an offer of a film. And Channel 5, which months ago had sent Dolphy feelers to join it, is said to have renewed its offer even more vigorously today.

The man—everyone in show biz will tell you—is loved.

What happened?

These days, everyone in the trade has something to say about the Dolphy-ABS issue, but each will take great pains not to be identified. Some admit they fear for their careers; even at No. 2, ABS remains a giant, coming in at No. 10 in the Far Eastern Economic Review's list of Asia's top companies.

Others plead deference to Dolphy, who, but for the first days when he let his feelings known to family and friends, has totally shut up on the subject.

Even **Zsa-Zsa Padilla** had to pry the story out of him, it is said. After that fateful dinner with ABS management—said to have included Gabby, **Charo Santos**, **Freddie Garcia**, **Luis Alejandro**, and Dolphy's long-time associate **Rene Pascual**—Dolphy was quiet, prompting Zsa-Zsa to say: "Luv you, *kumusta ang* dinner *niyo?*"

Dolphy was said to be quiet for a long moment, after which he answered, "*Hindi maganda*."

By the time he was done, Zsa-Zsa was said to be seething.

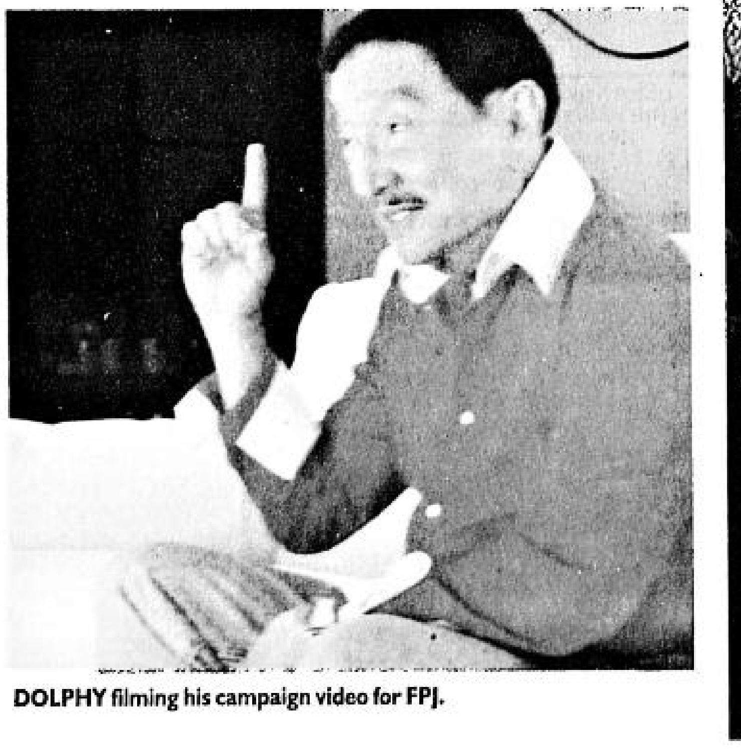
Still another Dolphy believer, again begging to be unnamed, says the comedian will not speak because, "*Alam mo*, gentleman at professional *'yang si* Dolphy."

Which is supposed to mean that, whatever they throw at him, the man will honor his contract, valid until August this year, forbidding him from both resigning and saying anything derogatory about the network.

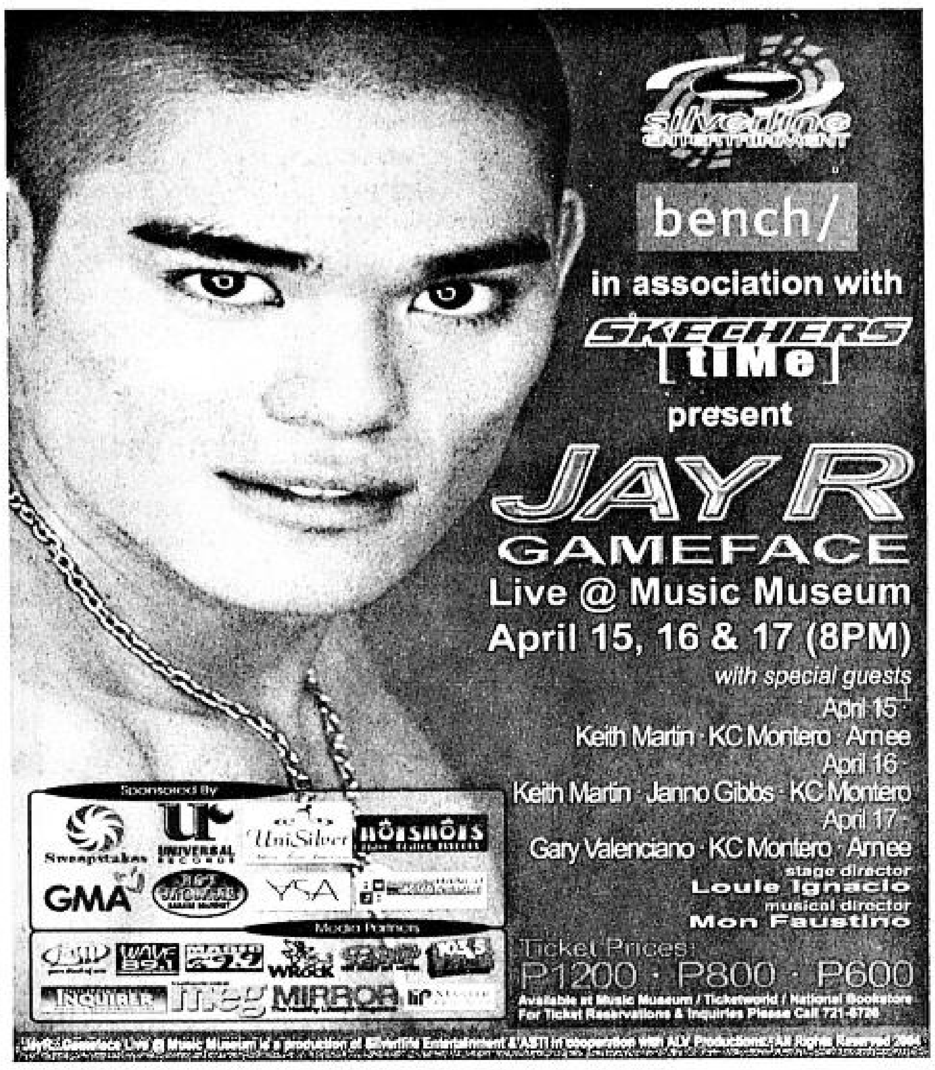
As it is, he is currently taping "Home Along" and will continue to do so until all the legal demands on him are met. But those who know the man say it's not just the legal, but old-school convention, that compels him never to be absent without cause. It's a convention that includes asking himself: What happens to the talent fees of others, like Nova Villa, should he not be there to complete an episode?

What is not very known, say his friends, is that the man also stays because his attachment to Channel 2 is long and sentimental. As it is to the man he calls "Kapitan," the late Ge-

DOLPHY/C4



DOLPHY filming his campaign video for FPJ.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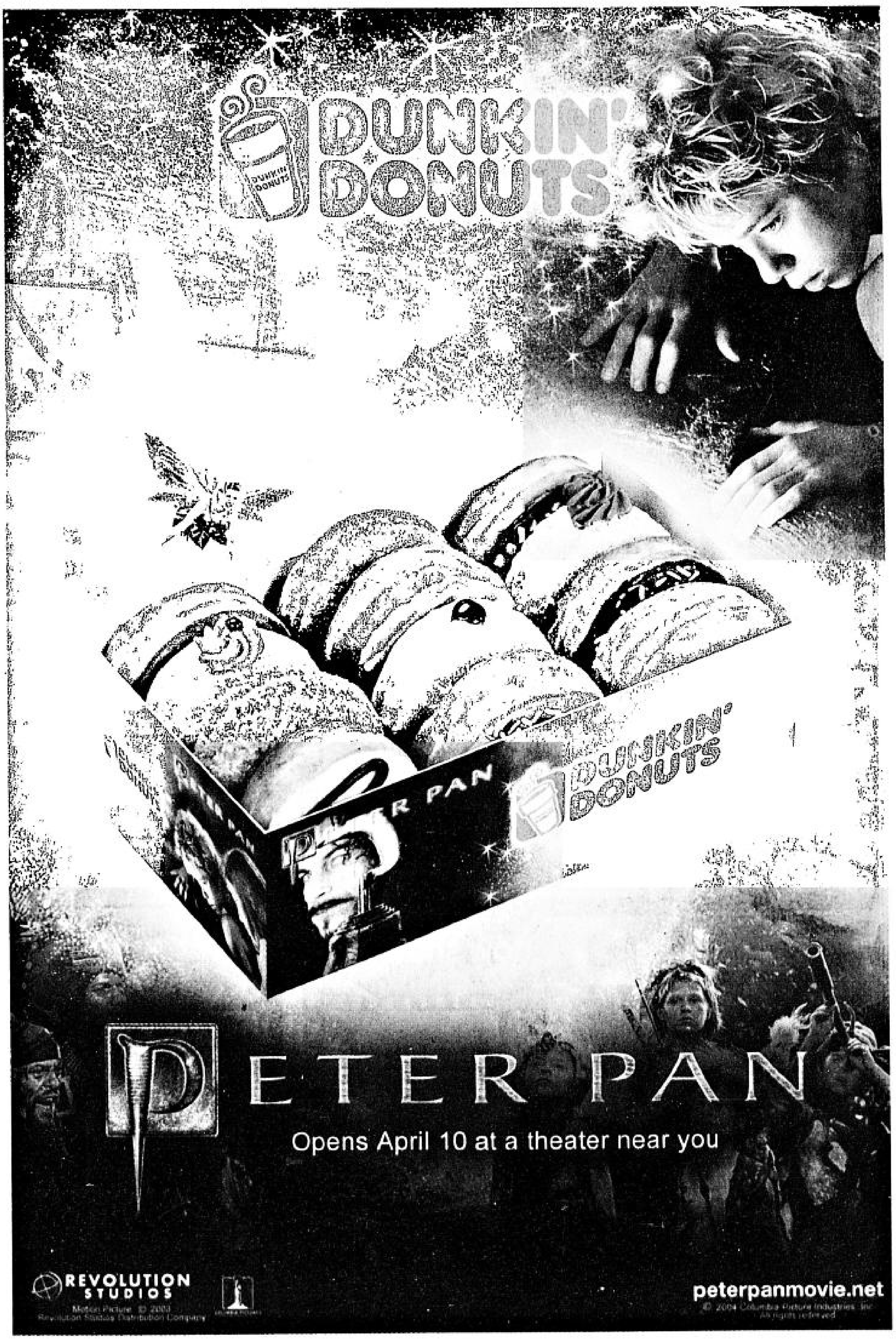
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SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

Central

SM MEGAMALL 6331901

1	WISE GIRLS
2	BUTTERFLY EFFECT
3	SCOOBY DOO 2
4	50 FIRST DATES
5	HIDALGO
6	SORUM
7	THE GRUDGE 2
8	DEATH CURSE
9	OTSO-OTSO
10	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
11	HIGHWAYMEN
12	KARIBAL

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	BUTTERFLY EFFECT
2	DEATH CURSE
3	TORQUE
4	HIGHWAYMEN
5	THE GRUDGE 2
6	HIDALGO
7	OTSO-OTSO
8	SCOOBY DOO 2
9	50 FIRST DATES
10	THE CURSE
11	GOTHIKA
12	KARIBAL

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	SCOOBY DOO 2
2	BUTTERFLY EFFECT
3	WISE GIRLS
4	50 FIRST DATES
5	THE GRUDGE 2
6	HIDALGO
7	KARIBAL
8	DEATH CURSE
9	OTSO-OTSO
10	TORQUE
11	HIGHWAYMEN
12	THE CURSE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	KARIBAL
2	SCOOBY DOO 2
3	THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT
4	THE GRUDGE 2
5	OTSO-OTSO
6	HIDALGO
7	50 FIRST DATES
8	HIGHWAYMEN

SM CITY STA. MESA 7149522 • 7161416

1	OTSO-OTSO
2	THE GRUDGE 2
3	50 FIRST DATES
4	DUDA/DOUBT
5	SCOOBY DOO 2
6	THE CURSE
7	HIGHWAYMEN
8	HIDALGO
9	BUTTERFLY EFFECT
10	KARIBAL

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN 2514302

1	SCOOBY DOO 2
2	HIGHWAYMEN
3	OTSO-OTSO
4	KARIBAL

North

SM CITY MARILAO (044) 933 2013 to 17

1	HIDALGO
2	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
3	OTSO-OTSO
4	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

SM CITY PAMPANGA 7128015

1	SCOOBY DOO 2
2	TORQUE
3	LOVE ACTUALLY
4	LANGIT MO, KALIGAYAHAN KO
5	THE GRUDGE 2
6	OTSO-OTSO

SM CITY BAGUIO (074) 4464505

1	HIDALGO
2	IN THE CUT
3	OTSO-OTSO
4	SCOOBY DOO 2

South

SM CITY LAS PIÑAS 8066888

1	RING: THE SPIRAL
2	DEATH CURSE
3	SCOOBY DOO 2
4	50 FIRST DATES
5	BUTTERFLY EFFECT
6	HIDALGO
7	OTSO-OTSO
8	HIGHWAYMEN
9	THE GRUDGE 2
10	KARIBAL

SM CITY BICUTAN 7763055

1	SCOOBY DOO 2
2	OTSO-OTSO
3	50 FIRST DATES
4	HIGHWAYMEN

SM SUPER CENTER SUCAT 8294975

1	HIGHWAYMEN
2	SCOOBY DOO 2
3	OTSO-OTSO
4	KARIBAL

SM CITY BACOOR (046)4173868

1	DEATH CURSE
2	HIDALGO
3	SCOOBY DOO 2
4	THE GRUDGE 2
5	50 FIRST DATES
6	OTSO-OTSO
7	BUTTERFLY EFFECT
8	KARIBAL

SM CITY LUCENA (042) 7108977-80

1	SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE
2	GOTHIKA
3	DRAGON VS. NINJA
4	OTSO-OTSO

Visayas & Mindanao

SM CITY CEBU (032) 2313876

1	GOTHIKA
2	HIDALGO
3	SCOOBY DOO 2
4	NIGHTMARE
5	BONE SNATCHER
6	OTSO-OTSO
7	OTSO-OTSO
8	TORQUE

SM CITY ILOILO (033) 3209422

1	WATER DEMON
2	RESERVED
3	SCOOBY DOO 2
4	DUPLEX
5	GOTHIKA
6	OTSO-OTSO
7	RESERVED
8	TOTALLY BLONDE

SM CITY DAVAO (082) 2976958

1	HIDALGO
2	WATER DEMON
3	OTSO-OTSO
4	GOTHIKA
5	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
6	SCOOBY DOO 2

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO (088) 8592884

1	WISHING STAIRS
2	OTSO-OTSO
3	GOTHIKA
4	TORQUE

THE PODIUM CINEMA

1
SCOOBY DOO 2
11:45 FS/12:15 MFS/2:20/4:25/6:30/8:35
10:15 LFS/10:45 LMS/12:20 END

2
50 FIRST DATES
11:25 FS/11:55 MFS/2:05/4:15/6:25/8:35/
10:15 LFS / 10:45 LMS/
12:20 END

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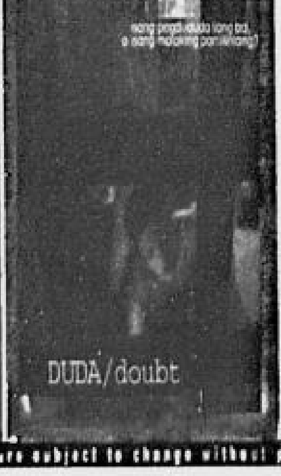

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 HIGHWAYMEN	1 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT	ArtFilm 1 HIGHWAYMEN 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 50 FIRST DATES 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00	THX 1 SCOOBY DOO 2
2 SCOOBY DOO 2	2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN	2 SCOOBY DOO 2 12:15, 2:15, 4:15, 6:15, 8:15	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 SCOOBY DOO 2 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15, 11:15	2 HIGHWAYMEN
3 OTSO-OTSO	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 50 FIRST DATES 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	Onstage REPERTORY'S DRACULA Apr 2, 3 & 4	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 THE MISSING 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	3 50 FIRST DATES
4 50 FIRST DATES	4 WISEGIRLS		4 LOVE ACTUALLY 1:05, 3:30, 5:55, 8:20, 10:45	4 SCOOBY DOO 2
	5 HIGHWAYMEN		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 HIGHWAYMEN 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10, 11:10	5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
	6 SCOOBY DOO 2			
	7 THE MISSING			

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MOVIE GUIDE
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EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1	BUTTERFLY EFFECTS
2	SCOOBY DOO-2
3	SPIRAL
4	SCOOBY DOO-2
5	HIGHWAYMEN
6	HIDALGO
7	50 FIRST DATES
8	OTSO OTSO
9	DEATH CURSE
10	GRUDGE-2

EASTWOOD CINEMAS (Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
2	SCOOBY DOO-2
3	50 FIRST DATE
4	HIGHWAY MEN

Masagana CINEMA 2000 (Pasay) tel 833.3290 833.3274

1	OTSO OTSO
2	SCOOBY DOO-2
3	KARIBAL

starmall Movies www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	OTSO OTSO
	SCOOBY DOO-2
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	KARIBAL
5	

METROPOLIS star www.clickthecity.com.ph (Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	PEEP SHOW
2	KARIBAL
3	HIGHWAY MEN
4	OTSO OTSO
5	SCOOBY DOO-2
6	THE CURSE

M star www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1	DRAGON VS' NINJA
2	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN

PREMIERE CINEMA THX (Makati City) tel 892.2503

SCOOBY DOO-2

Centre Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	OTSO OTSO
2	SOMETHING GOTTA GIVE

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	KAMANDAG
2	BLOODY WISH
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City (Manila) tel 734.8588

RESERVE
5
6
7
8
9

Gotesco Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	KARIBAL
2	OTSO OTSO
3	SCOOBY DOO-2
4	SORUM
5	HIDALGO
6	BUTTERFLY EFFECTS
7	THE CURSE
8	U-BELT
9	PEEP SHOW

Gotesco Commonwealth tel 951.0083

RESERVE
1
2
3
4
5

Gotesco Ortigas tel 656.6795

1	TORQUE
2	OTSO OTSO
3	MR NICE GUY
4	KARIBAL
5	SCOOBY DOO-2

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1	RESERVE

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	KARIBAL
Lords	KARIBAL

MAIN THEATRE Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	HIGHWAY MEN
2	OTSO OTSO
3	KARIBAL
4	SCOOBY DOO-2

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1	HIGHWAY MEN
2	SCOOBY DOO 2
3	KARIBAL
4	OTSO OTSO
5	RESERVE

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	KARIBAL
2	SCOOBY DOO-2

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2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	HIGHWAY MEN
4	SCOOBY DOO-2
5	50 FIRST DATE
6	THE CURSE
7	OTSO OTSO

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1	SKY OF LOVE
2	OTSO OTSO
3	SCOOBY DOO-2
4	HAUNTED OFFICE

Cine Nepo (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	OTSO OTSO
2	DUPLEX
3	TORQUE
4	SCOOBY DOO 2

Cine Nepo (Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	OTSO OTSO
2	SPIRAL
3	GOTHIKA
4	TORQUE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926

1	OTSO OTSO
2	BONE SNATCHER
3	SCOOBY DOO-2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	OTSO OTSO
2	SCOOBY DOO-2
3	50 FIRST DATES
4	LOVE ACTUALLY

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	OTSO OTSO
2	BONE SNACTHER
3	SCOOBY DOO-2
4	LOVE ACTUALLY

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	SOMETHING GOTTA GIVE
2	GOTHIKA
3	OTSO OTSO

Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	OTSO OTSO
2	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
3	GHOST HOUSE
4	TORQUE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795-1320

1	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2	OTSO OTSO
3	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1	DOUBLE SEEDUCTION
2	SAKIM SA PAG-IBIG
3	PEEP SHOW
4	THE PHONE

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1	I AM DINA
2	PEEP SHOW
3	SCOOBY DOO-2
4	SORUM
5	OTSO OTSO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	OTSO OTSO
2	SCOOBY DOO-2

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 249.2558

1	SCOOBY DOO-2
2	OTSO OTSO
3	PEEP SHOW

Mega Center Mall (Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	DUPLEX
2	GOTHIKA
3	TORQUE
4	OTSO OTSO

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel 520.8914

1	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	LANGIT KO KALIGAYAHAN KO
2	THE CURSE
3	SCOOBY DOO-2
4	OTSO OTSO

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	LANGIT KO KALIGAYAHAN KO
2	OTSO OTSO

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72
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SCOOBY-DOO 2
NOW SHOWING

The movie in Rufa Mae's mind

From page C1

Karyl, Kyla, among others. Rufa Mae's boyfriend, basketball player Rudy Hatfield also appeared in the film for a pittance. One thing they had in common with Rufa Mae is the desire to jump start the local movie industry, which has been in a slump for the longest time.

"This is also why I'm producing this movie myself," Rufa Mae revealed. "I feel that we should bond together and help in giving the audience a refreshing change from the usual fare. We can not fool people into watching a movie that is below standard or lacks quality or doesn't make sense. We have to do something to help ourselves. If a movie outfit like Viva would not continue making movies, a lot of people will go jobless."

Dolphy . . .

From page C3

ny Lopez, Gabby's father.

FPJ and Susan

On the issue, FPJ is reported to have advised his people: "*Huwag nang magsalita. Kung totoo iyan, sila* [GMA's camp] *rin ang bubuweltahan niyan.*"

For her part, Susan Roces is quoted as lamenting: "I hope and I pray that this is not true. Because if it is true, *kawawa naman si* Dolphy. He just wanted to help a friend. *Politika lang ito.* Everyone just wants to serve. *Bakit may siraan? May wasakan? May tinatanggalan ng hanapbuhay? Grabe dito sa atin.*"

One source categorically says that it was politics, not ratings, behind the move to take Dolphy out. For while it is correct, she says, that "Home Along the Airport" had come in only at No. 15, against the rival station's "Idol Ko si Kap" which logged in at No. 5, the ratings were satisfactory to ABS.

As proof, the executive producer's invitation to the comedian to dine out in fact went: "*Tito* Dolphy, one month *na tayong okey sa* rating, *kaya* management will treat us."

More importantly, says the same source, Dolphy has never been known to shirk his responsibility in the ratings game. As example, the source cites Dolphy's unpopular split from **Alma Moreno** and the stirrings of his partnership with Zsa-Zsa, as a result of which his show at Channel 9 took a nosedive. Following this, Dolphy himself offered to quit the show—an offer that, by the way, the station accepted.

This time around, the ratings issue is spurious, says a film and TV director. He swears that he called up the station's comedy department soon after news leaked that Dolphy was out,

DOLPHY C6

A Champion Never Surrenders

Back in 1979, it might have been impossible to fathom that a young suburban boy, who mistakenly referred to taekwondo as "Korean Karate," would grow up to become one of the first Filipino jins to make it to the Hall of Fame in Korea.

Monsour del Rosario had to learn how to survive in a tough world at a very young age. Growing up without a family to support him, he vowed to persevere and was determined to put direction into his life. With this resolve to keep him going, the fighter in Monsour emerged. He was drawn to taekwondo like a person who has finally found his true calling.

As if to test the strength of the fighter in him, Monsour came under the mentorship of Grandmaster Hong, a Korean taekwondo master, and one of the first to introduce the sport in the country. Being unfamiliar with the Filipino culture, he taught them the only way he knew how – the Korean way. "Grandmaster Hong treated all the kids equally. He was like a general in a camp and you would just have to follow everything that he says because he was the law and you couldn't contest him," recounts Monsour. "It was very tough."

Rounding off the session with a perfect flying roundhouse kick

The battle to reach dreams

Up until that point, Monsour's life seemed to have been filled with challenges. Even his training was a challenge. Yet, it was through these experiences that he was able to define what it truly meant to succeed in life. For Monsour, a champion is someone who will always stand up no matter how many times he falls; someone who will stand up whether in the ring or outside the ring; someone who'd tell himself to stand up again and be great; someone who will never give up. He recalls a line from Grandmaster Hong that has remained with him through all these years, "Each new day is a battle for me. Before I go to sleep, I analyze what I did for the day. If I'm one step closer to winning the war – the war of life, then today was a good day for me."

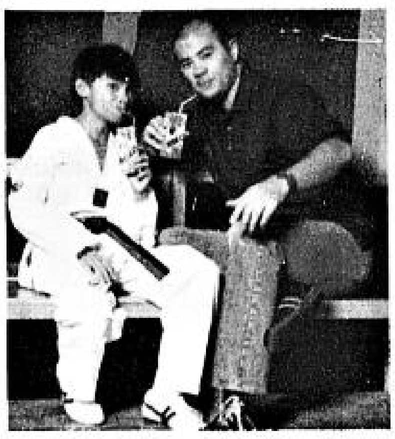
Monsour shows how to kick higher, faster, stronger!

Emerging champ

When Monsour started out in taekwondo, his skills as a fighter were innate. But skills may be further developed if one has enough heart. Up and coming taekwondo champion, Jacob Raterta, definitely has the skills and the heart. With these, there is no doubt that he can fulfill his dream of becoming a Taekwondo World Champion just like Monsour. "Idol ko po s'ya at gusto ko maging katulad niya sa taekwondo," Jacob beams.

Fitness to fight to the top

For Monsour, taking up taekwondo was a lifetime commitment. Thus, he made all the sacrifices necessary to make it to the top. From the grueling training to his strict diet, Monsour kept himself on track. His sport demanded that he maintain a certain body weight to be able to compete in his division. "I had to maintain my weight. I would avoid fatty foods and eat a lot of carbohydrates. I would take a lot of vitamins and a lot of chocolate drinks. I'd take MILO during breakfast," says Monsour on his diet. MILO plays an even more important role in the athletes' healthy lifestyle because of Actigen-E, a combination of B vitamins and essential micronutrients that helps optimize the release of energy. He stresses that even if an athlete has the skills and the heart, none of it would matter if his health and energy level fail him. Even young Jacob knows what MILO does for him and how it will help him become like his idol. "Drinking a glass of MILO a day makes me stronger, faster, and wiser," he says. "I know MILO will help me achieve my ultimate goal of becoming a world taekwondo champion someday."

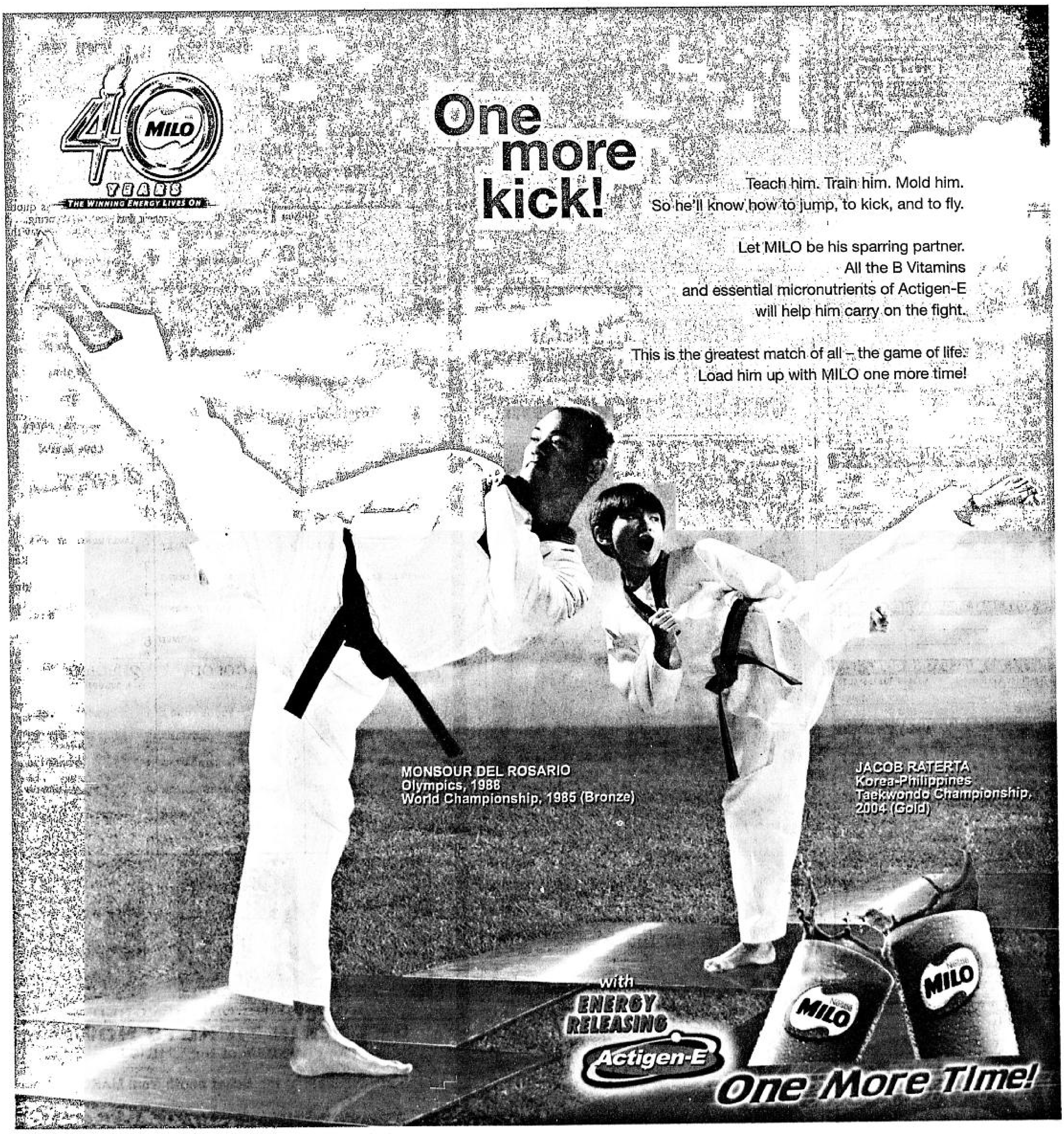


Energizing with idol, Monsour

A sip of energy before the kick off

Victory kicks in

From a little boy who knew nothing of the sport, Monsour became the face of Philippine taekwondo. Now, he wants to be known as something more, "I want people to remember me as a man who followed his own passion and destiny. I was merely a little boy from the province who was determined to take on the whole world. I want future taekwondo athletes to think, 'If Mon can do it, so can we!'"



Teach him. Train him. Mold him.
So he'll know how to jump, to kick, and to fly.

Let MILO be his sparring partner.
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and essential micronutrients of Actigen-E
will help him carry on the fight.

This is the greatest match of all – the game of life.
Load him up with MILO one more time!

Dolphy: much respected, much loved

From page C4

and no one there knew anything about "Home Along" being axed. They actually told the director that the show was getting back in its stride.

Why then, asks this source, was ABS management saying to Dolphy at dinner: "*Tutal naman aalis ka, ituloy-tuloy mo na ang pahinga?*"

Management went on to tell him, says another source, that it was planning to "retire" the King of Comedy first and then giving him a big comeback some time after, "*gaya raw ng ginawa kay* **Frank Sinatra**."

It was a proposal about which, says the source, Dolphy deadpanned to friends in last Monday's gathering: "*Si* Sinatra *mga* 60 *nu'ng ni*-retire. *Ako*, 75 *na. Kung mag*-comeback *ako ng* 80, *baka naman may* Parkinson's *na ang boses ko*."

Dolphy is also supposed to have mused aloud: They had asked him to dinner as a treat for regained ratings, so why in the world were they telling him to go rest indefinitely?

Cebu leg

At press time, FPJ no longer expected Dolphy to appear at this week's Cebu rally. FPJ is said to have told Dolphy's son, **Eric Quizon**: "*Kung totoo na politika ang dahilan*, tell your father *na* although I need him in Cebu, it's okay if he doesn't appear there. *Ayoko siyang maipit*."

The same insiders swear, however, that Dolphy has become even more determined now to help his friend: "*Sa nangyayari sa bansa ngayon, lalong dapat manalo si* Ronnie."

Fortunately for FPJ, those for whom he has not been good enough may now think twice. When a man like Dolphy, aged in grace and good, speaks well of a candidate, that is a fine beginning.

Gabby Lopez might really have miscalculated this time. While everyone will now see him as the scion who left the rest of us to pick up his P8-billion tab, Dolphy will be seen as the poor guy who suffered his fate in silence, even as he understood perfectly that he had been sacrificed.

ARANETA CENTER
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

Ali 3	OTSO OTSO
Ali 4	50 FIRST DATES
Ali 5	TORQUE
Ali 6	THE CURSE
Ali 7	HIDALGO

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APR 4	PBA: GINEBRA VS. TALK 'N' TEXT
APR 8	OLPH RETREAT (7AM)/ SHALOM (1PM)
APR 9	OLPH RETREAT (7AM)/ SHALOM (1PM)
APR 10	OLPH RETREAT (7AM)/ SHALOM (2PM)

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KARIBAL
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	KARIBAL
B	LIBERATED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	OTSO OTSO
CINEMA-2	KARIBAL
CINEMA-3	BUTTERFLY EFFECT
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HIDALGO
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	CURSE
CINEMA-6	PEEP SHOW
CINEMA-7	TORQUE
CINEMA-8	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	SCOOBY DOO 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HIGHWAYMEN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	50 FIRST DATES
CINEMA-12	GRUDGE 2
CINEMA-14	GHOSTFIGHTER (RI)
CINEMA-15	OTSO OTSO

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PIÑAS)	TORQUE
CINEMA-1	OTSO OTSO
CINEMA-2	GOTHIKA
CINEMA-4	DUPLEX

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
For inquiries, call:
687-6963 • 687-6972
RESERVED SEATING
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

1	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN	11:35, 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00	GP
2	SCOOBY DOO 2	11:55, 2:25, 4:55, 7:25, 9:55	GP
3	50 FIRST DATES	11:30, 1:40, 3:50, 6:00, 8:10, 10:20	PG-13
4	HIGHWAYMEN	11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20	R-13

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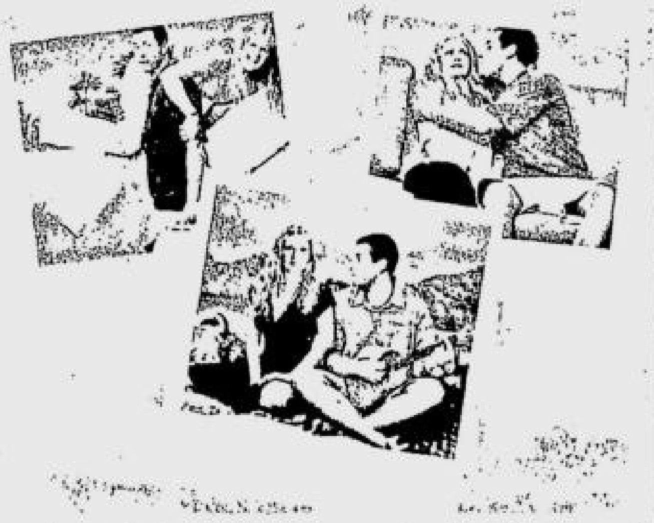

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HOUSE OF THE DEAD
The #1 video game from SEGA is now a movie.

While entertainment dealing with dark subject matter has gone out of vogue for the moment – and rightly so – production continues on many horror films. That may be a good thing since we'll need all the healthy escapism we can get in the uncertain times ahead.

SEGA Entertainment's #1 video game *The House of the Dead* is now on screen.

The film is based on a script by Altman and Dave Parker. The story is set on an island off the coast of Florida that is inhabited by zombies, monsters and creatures that wreak havoc on land, in the air and in the water. A rave attracts a diverse group including a multiethnic party of college coeds and a Coast Guard officer to the island, where they must battle for their lives against an evil entity that resides in "The House of the Dead."

Altman says the movie will take place within the same continuity as the game (in fact, it's a prequel). He says it will have villains and zombies from the games, but will introduce a new baddie, "essentially a Freddy Krueger, Michael or Jason type." He also says the movie will deal with the origin of the zombie manifestation that occurs in the games.

The new HOUSE OF THE DEAD game based on the movie is also coming. The movie-based game is expected to ship in conjunction with the film's theatrical release. There's no word on what next-generation consoles will get the new game, but it's safe to assume that Microsoft's Xbox will get it, as there's a House of the Dead 3 already slated for release on Xbox. The games have been a hit in arcades, as well as on Sega's Saturn and Dreamcast consoles.

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2	DEATH CURSE	12:20, 2:25, 4:30, 6:35, 8:40, 10:30
3	SCOOBY DOO 2	11:35, 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00
4	HIGHWAYMEN	12:20, 2:25, 4:30, 6:35, 8:40, 10:30
5	50 FIRST DATES	10:25, 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40
6	THE GRUDGE 2	12:20, 2:25, 4:30, 6:35, 8:40, 10:30
7	OTSO-OTSO	10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
8	BUTTERFLY EFFECT	11:55, 2:05, 4:15, 6:25, 8:35, 10:30
9	LOVE ACTUALLY	10:40, 1:25, 4:10, 6:55, 9:40
10	WISE GIRLS	11:55, 2:05, 4:15, 6:25, 8:35, 10:30

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
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ERMITA 526-7185 / 536-7809 to 12

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	SCOOBY DOO 2	10:15, 12:10, 2:05, 4:00, 5:55, 7:50, 9:50
2	THE GRUDGE 2	11:15, 1:05, 2:55, 4:45, 6:35, 8:25, 10:00
3	WISE GIRLS	11:55, 2:00, 4:05, 6:10, 8:15, 10:00
4	DEATH CURSE	11:15, 1:05, 2:55, 4:45, 6:35, 8:25, 10:00
5	OTSO-OTSO	10:10, 12:35, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40
6	HIGHWAYMEN	10:40, 12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 8:35, 10:00
7	50 FIRST DATES	10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50

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Cinema	Movie	Times
1	HIGHWAYMEN	10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
2	50 FIRST DATES	11:50, 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10
3	KARIBAL	11:50, 1:40, 3:30, 5:20, 7:10, 9:00
4	SCOOBY DOO 2	11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40
5	SCOOBY DOO 2	[illegible]:50, 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30
6	THE GRUDGE 2	10:40, 12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 8:40
7	BUTTERFLY EFFECT	11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
8	OTSO-OTSO	11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00

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Cinema	Movie	Times
1	SCOOBY DOO 2	11:25, 1:15, 3:05, 4:55, 6:45, 8:35
2	OTSO-OTSO	11:20, 1:35, 3:50, 6:05, 8:30
3	BUTTERFLY EFFECT	12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:00
4	THE CURSE	11:50, 1:45, 3:40, 5:35, 7:30, 9:00
5	HIGHWAYMEN	11:25, 1:15, 3:05, 4:55, 6:45, 8:35
6	THE GRUDGE 2	11:40, 1:45, 3:50, 5:55, 8:10
7	50 FIRST DATES	11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30
8	THE NIGHTMARE	11:00, 12:55, 2:50, 4:45, 6:40, 8:35

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VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ASHTON Kutcher has become a popular star of zany youth comedies, but his latest starrer, "The Butterfly Effect," proves that he's got more in his bag of thespic tricks than just cheesy comic capers. In Eric Bress' psycho-drama, Kutcher turns tortured and morose, and his character has to cope with more mental problems that most people would be able to handle.

For starters, his family life is positively dismal, what with an absent father who's wrestling with psychological demons of his own. And his family's friends aren't much better, because one of them forces him and his own daughter to act in a "home movie" that turns out to be a porno production for pedophiles!

So, viewers aren't surprised when the poor boy ends up as one, big mess, entertaining violent fantasies that sometimes actually transpire.

His harried mother becomes so terrified for her tormented son that she decides to take him far away from all those negative influences, so he can have a fresh crack at a normal life.

For seven years, her plan works beautifully, and her son (played as a young adult by Kutcher) does very well in college, since he's no longer experiencing the terrible blackouts that used to drive him to the edge of insanity.

But the past eventually catches up with the young man when the girl he loves kills herself. This tragic act opens up a new can of worms, and Kutcher is set psychologically adrift once more.

This time, however, he decides to get to the root of his mental condition. He uses the journals he kept as a boy as the springboard for his recollection of the traumas of the past, in the desperate hope that he can finally find his true self.

It is at this point that the film's surreal visuals assume truly prodigious proportions, as the past confounds the present, and reality becomes more awesome than fantasy.

The point to all these? Kutcher's character has been victimized by many people, but he's had his share of victims as well. So, to save himself and to atone for his sins against them, he has to force himself to learn some painful lessons.

The most crucial realization is that we are ultimately the products, not of other people's actions, but of our own decisions. An adjunct to this is that choices must be made, but we must decide very carefully, since our decisions can have consequences that are far more awesome than the choices we make in the first place.

This is an apt lesson to learn, but the film's visually hectic, non-linear style, distracts from the script's main intent. Still, the dazzling visualizations could be a treat for some film buffs.

On point of performance, Kutcher does spring a thespic surprise, but the most arresting performance is turned in by **Amy Smart**, who plays the young woman who feels she has to kill herself to put an end to her similarly tormented existence.

Tagaytay workshops

FILM, broadcast and creative workshops will be held this summer at the Development Academy of the Philippines in Tagaytay by the Creative Media Professionals Guild of Asia and the Pacific. Call 925-1916.

Lectures include **Eddie Romero** for film directing, **Chi-Chi Robles** on TV hosting, **Nick Tayag** on scriptwriting for audio-visual presentations, **Fritz Ynfante** on directing TV variety shows, **Giggi Garcia** on digital post-production editing, **Boy Yniguez** on light design for video and film, **Roy Iglesias** on scriptwriting for film, **Lynet Villariba** on publications design and layout, and **Salvii Casino** on video for corporate and institutional imaging. Courses are from May 23 to 28.

'Legally Blonde 2'

THE REESE Witherspoon starrer, "Legally Blonde 2," is now on video, and is available at Astrovision, Astro Plus, Video City, Odyssey and other Viva Video outlets.

Witherspoon again plays Elle Woods, now a successful young lawyer who's about to get married to a real catch. But when she finds out that the mother of her pet dog is being used as a cosmetics test subject, she takes her case to Capitol Hill, and has a dramatic effect on Congress!

'Out of Order'

ON MARCH 28 on the Hallmark Channel, "Out of Order" shows how the seemingly perfect Hollywood marriage of two gifted screenwriters crack under the pressure of infidelity and self-destruction.

The film stars **Eric Stoltz, Felicity Huffman** and **William H. Macy.**

CAVIEZEL with director Mel Gibson

It isn't easy …

From page C8

sand feet above and extremely cold knots of wind going through me."

Struck by lightning

Hearing Caviezel himself recount how he was struck by lightning while filming the Sermon on the Mount scene made the incident sound even more remarkable.

"It was so disorienting. It was the most bizarre thing that ever happened to me. The screaming that I heard from the people who saw me get hit was the same one that I heard when that plane went into the south tower (of the World Trade Center) and terrified bystanders. I saw this red-pink fuzzy thing in front of my eyes. I felt like that thing could have exploded in my heart, but it didn't."

As if getting struck by lightning and filming scourging and crucifixion scenes in the middle of a brutal Italian winter were not enough, Caviezel had to wake up at 2:00 in the morning to endure make-up sessions that lasted until 10:00 a.m. After filming is done for the day, it took two hours in hot water to get off all that make-up to simulate Jesus' welts and wounds. There was also the challenge of learning three languages.

"I had to learn Aramaic, Hebrew and Latin," he said. "It was very difficult. I wasn't prepared for that."

Compelling Jesus

In the controversy over the film's supposed anti-Semitic message and violence, Caviezel's performance, crucial to the films success, was relegated to the sidelines. Praise for Caviezel was almost in passing. Yet the film could not have succeeded that well had Caviezel failed to come up with a compelling Jesus. His performance is all the more outstanding because he had few speaking lines and had to rely more on his eyes (with one swollen tight during most of the film) and body.

"The Passion" is definitely a career turning point for Caviezel, who was once told by a casting agent that he "didn't have the chops to be a dramatic actor."

Married for eight years, he did not want to go nude with J Lo (she personally chose him as her co-star) in "Angel Eyes" and Ashley Judd in "High Crimes" to avoid offending his wife, Kerri. He appeared with Demi Moore in "G.I. Jane."

Authenticity

When "The Passion's" violence was brought up, Caviezel referred to an annual trip that he and Kerri make.

"I want authenticity," he began. "It's what I'm attracted to. The point of the film was to unveil the true brutality of human beings. My wife and I spend a lot of time in Bosnia and Croatia. We go there every year to help. You don't ever have to go there. You can choose to go there just as people can choose to go and see this film. When you go there, you'll see what war did. You spend time with this group of young kids who have no parents because of the vicious crimes that individuals did to each other."

Toward the end of the interview, Caviezel's voice sounded weary yet calm.

"You were talking about me getting into someone's (Jesus') shoes," he said, his eyes steady, a quietness about him more palpable than ever.

"I'll never be the same person after doing this role. It puts a responsibility on me. Now I know more than I've ever known. I felt a connection while I was playing the part. I felt personally responsible to continue trying to be a better man."

Last March 15, Caviezel and Kerri met Pope John Paul II for a private audience while the actor was in Rome for a special screening of "The Passion." It must have been a sweet moment for Caviezel after all the pain and suffering he went through playing Jesus.

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JIM CAVIEZEL

It isn't easy being Jesus

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

CAVIEZEL shares the same initials with Jesus.

By Ruben V. Nepales
LA Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—Jim Caviezel bristled a bit at how religion seemed to color most of the questions being thrown at him by reporters.

INQUIRER spoke to Caviezel about a week before "The Passion of the Christ," where he plays the role, opened in the US to phenomenal box-office figures. This was at the time when controversy over the movie was at its feverish peak.

The journalists' line of questioning made Caviezel slightly on the edge.

"If I'm a builder and I come to do work on your house, I don't say I'm a Catholic builder," he told one writer. "I'm a builder, period. I do good work. That's what I do. Same thing (with being an actor). In every film I do, I always work as hard as I can.

"This is the weirdest thing," he managed a smile, in the face of questions that seemed to focus more on his Catholic faith, not on his acting craft or on the movie itself. Of course, the journalists could be forgiven for asking religion-related questions since the movie is, well, about you-know-what.

"I've played on basketball teams and never talked about my faith," said Caviezel, who, at 35, has maintained his basketball jock frame since college. Jeans and a checkered shirt, its short-sleeves folded up several times, displayed his muscular physique. In person, his features are more angular. It's his blue eyes, colored brown for the part of Jesus in "The Passion" that are just as expressive off-screen as they are onscreen.

Devout Catholic

He continued, "When I came into acting, the same thing (should apply). It's how you act, it's not what you say or do. And yes, I've talked about it (religion), but only because I've been asked about it. It's not like I'm promoting my movie called "Frequency," and I suddenly say, let's talk about religion! I don't do that. I don't put it (my beliefs) on people."

Make no mistake about it. Caviezel, who shares the same initials with Jesus, is a devout Catholic and proud of it. He is just pleading for a distinction between Caviezel the man and Caviezel the actor.

He said in his quiet manner, "You have people walking up to me and saying, 'Bellissimo, Jesus' or 'Jesus in the highest!' I'm not Jesus, I'm sorry. Or I read headlines that say 'Jesus and (President George) Bush are going to the Daytona 500.' I said to my publicist, I thought I was the one going. That's great for him (Jesus), I guess. Jesus took my ticket." For the record, Caviezel, who drove the pace car in the Indy 500 Race in 2002, was the one who attended the recent Daytona 500.

Basketball player

Before Caviezel took on the role that he would be most remembered for, he was best known for films like "The Count of Monte Cristo" (title role) and "Frequency" (as a son making contact through time-twist with his dead father, played by Dennis Quaid).

The 6-foot-2 tall Caviezel was a promising basketball player for the University of Washington until a foot injury forced him to try acting instead. After doing some theater acting gigs, he moved to LA at 23 and supported himself by waiting on tables in between auditions. He showed some gumption by faking an Italian accent to land a role in the Keanu Reeves-River Phoenix drama about homosexual hustlers, "My Own Private Idaho," an Indie standout.

He made another bold move by choosing a supporting role as Kevin Costner's youngest brother in "Wyatt Earp" over a scholarship at the prestigious Juilliard School. Critics took notice of him as the loner Private Witt in the acclaimed "The Thin Red Line," which starred Sean Penn and Nick Nolte.

It was his performance in the Terrence Malick-directed movie that led Mel Gibson to offer Caviezel the role of a lifetime.

Playing Jesus

Typical of Gibson, who is a notorious prankster, he met Caviezel in Malibu to discuss a "surfer movie project."

Caviezel recalled, "I got a phone call from Steve McEveety ('The Passion' co-producer). We met by a picnic table. We sat and talked about this movie on surfing. And then Mel showed up. We were talking about one thing and Mel started talking about the Gospels. I said, you want me to play Jesus, don't you?"

It was easy to picture Caviezel, with his calm, penetrating gaze, asking Gibson to be forthright.

"Mel blew a cigarette, eyes popping, and said, yes." Caviezel did a dead-on impression of Gibson smoking a cigarette, exhaling and eyes opening wide as he said that.

"That's how it all began. It was much easier but obviously, the film was difficult to do physically. It was so hard."

Scourging scene

"I wasn't prepared for the brutality that was done on my body," Caviezel admitted. "When I separated my shoulder (from carrying the cross), it (the pain) was horrific. It knocked me out. When they put my arm on the cross, and the wind would start to do this (he demonstrated winds lashing at his outstretched arm on the cross), I didn't know how I did it. It forced me to get to a place where I had to pray at the deepest level. I asked God for help."

During one filming of a scourging scene, Caviezel recalled that "they (the actors playing Roman soldiers) missed several times, hitting me right on the back and tearing the skin right off.

"It would have been impossible to endure all of these—physical exhaustion and hardly any sleep, hypothermia, being on a cross that was on the edge of a cliff about a thou-

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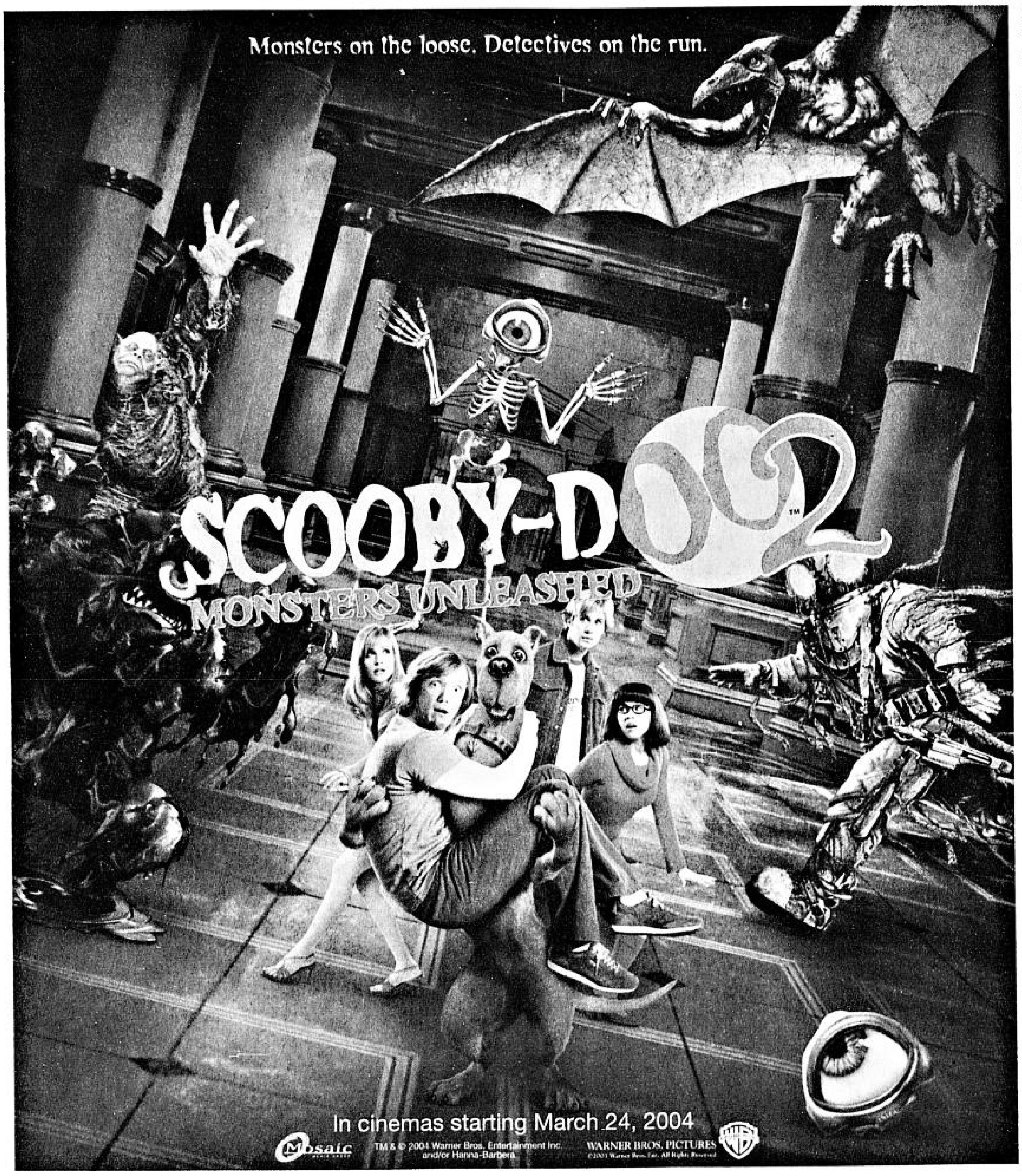
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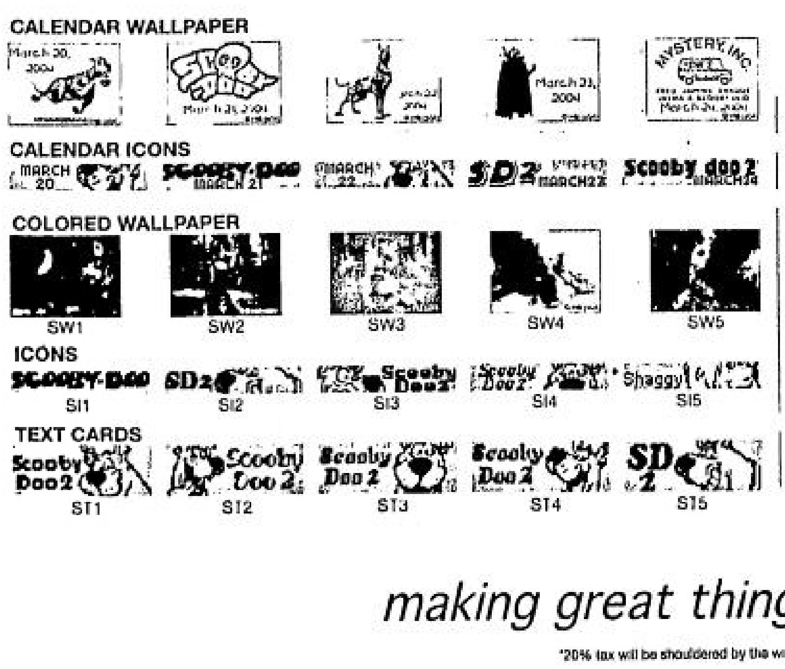

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

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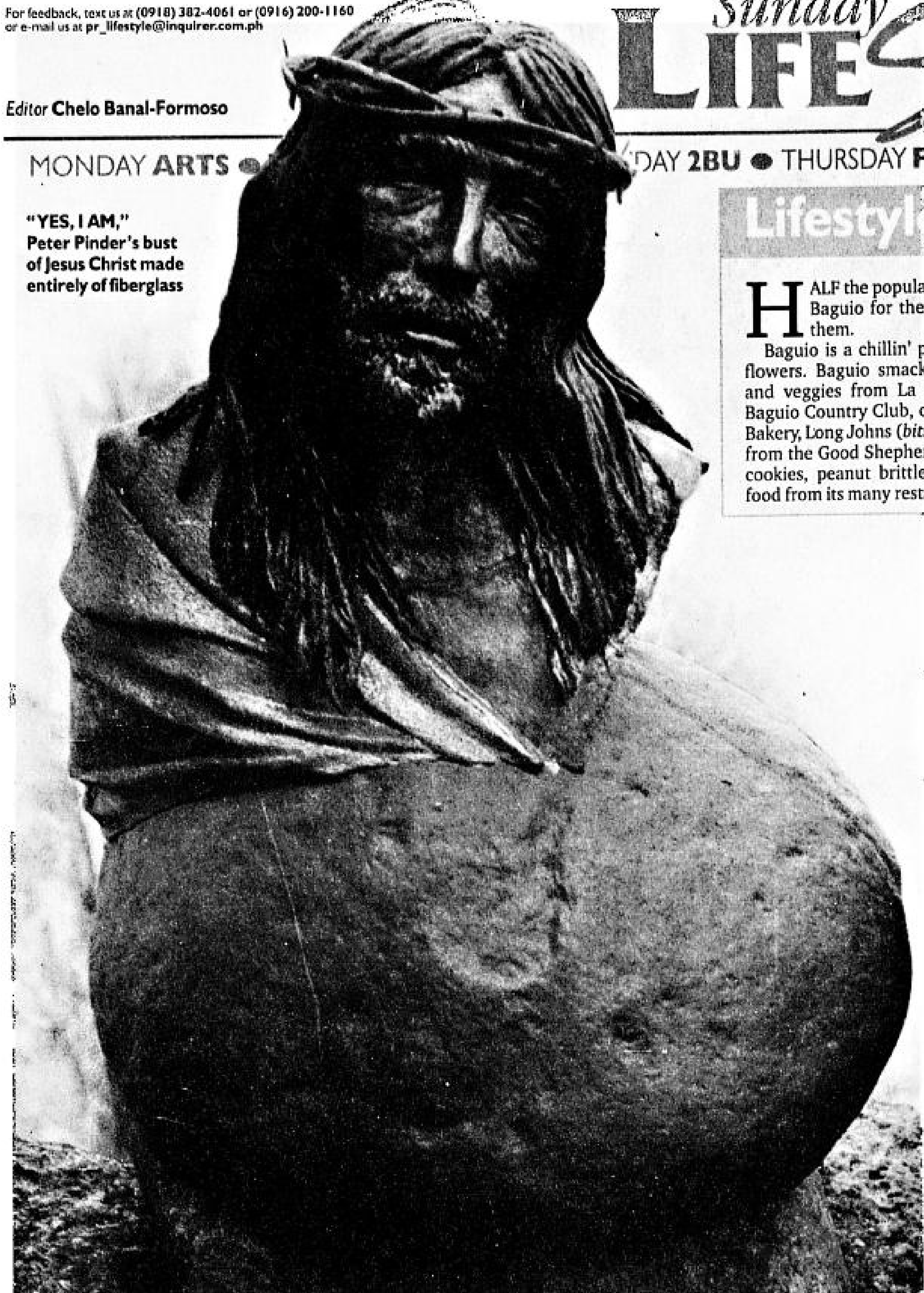

"YES, I AM," **Peter Pinder's bust of Jesus Christ made entirely of fiberglass**

Lifestyle goes to Baguio

HALF the population of Metro Manila will troop to Baguio for the Holy Week, and we can't blame them.

Baguio is a chillin' place. Baguio smells of pines and flowers. Baguio smacks of freshly picked strawberries and veggies from La Trinidad, raisin bread from the Baguio Country Club, cinnamon rolls from the Sunshine Bakery, Long Johns (*bitso-bitso*) from the market, ube jam from the Good Shepherd Convent or Tamtamco's, butter cookies, peanut brittle, *longganisa*, and food, glorious food from its many restaurants.

And the shopping. The shopping is terrific, especially for the harried lowlander who usually darts in and out of malls on errands and never gets the time to browse. In Baguio, too, you must do the market. You will short-change yourself if you don't.

SM City Baguio, the new mall that offers a splendid view of Baguio because it now stands where once was Pines Hotel, invited Lifestyle for a weekend of rediscovery, and we came back with fresh tips (do check out sections G, H and I, too) that we hope will help those who are headed to this mountain city make the most of their stay.

Art from the highlands

Peter Pinder and Ben-Hur Villanueva are only two reasons Baguio has become famous as a haven of artistry and creativity

Text by Gibbs Cadiz
Photos by Joan Bondoc

ENTERING the Pinder house on Asin Road just outside Baguio City is like entering an arts and crafts store.

Paintings and sketches line the walls. Tables and cabinets are filled with moldings, sculptures and bric-a-brac. Corners are occupied either by one-of-a-kind lamps, bundles of leather bags, or ethnic accents. Even the bathroom walls are filled with colorful doodles.

This is not surprising, as the entire Pinder family is into the arts. Peter, the father, is well-known for his works in leather, wood and fiberglass. Wife Ella is a painter and art teacher. Twin daughters Azra and Samantha and only son Reuben dabble in interior design, drawing, sculpture and crafts.

Their house, situated on a cliff overlooking a magnificent view of Benguet's mountain ranges, is an ode to native imagination and creativity.

But you wouldn't know it from Peter Pinder's fiberglass creations scattered all over the yard. The massive dark gray boulder you see in the center? Yep, that's made of fiberglass. The blown-up ceramic-looking replicas of the faces of Venus de Milo, David, Alexander The Great

ART/ D6

HAPPENINGS * HAPPENINGS * HAPPENINGS
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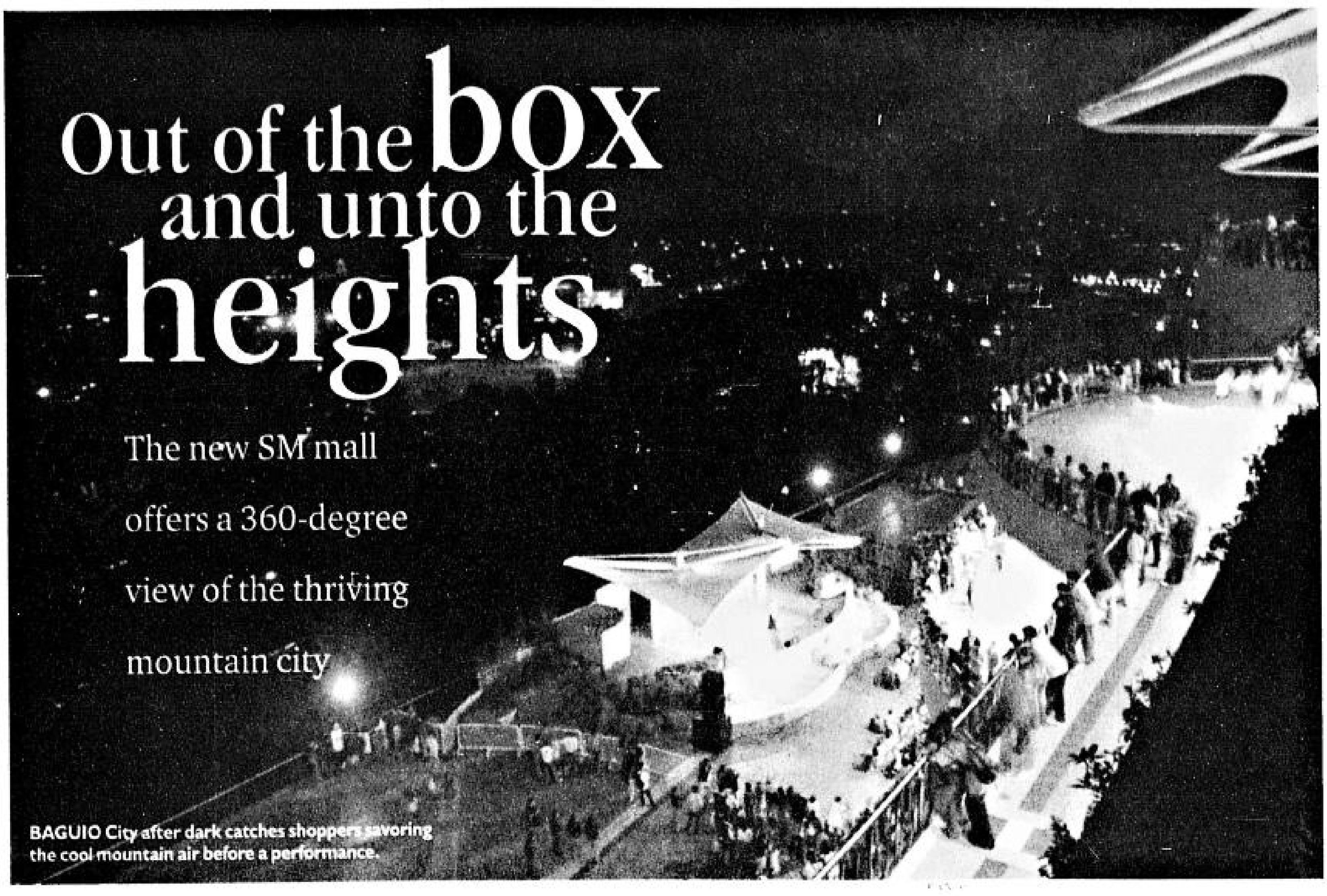
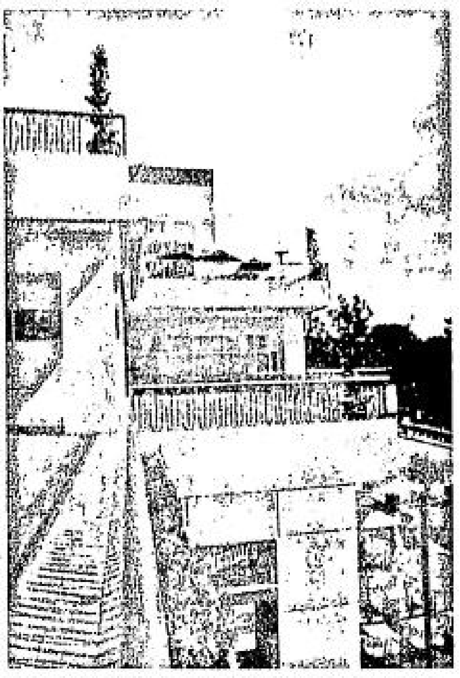
Out of the box and unto the heights

The new SM mall offers a 360-degree view of the thriving mountain city



BAGUIO City after dark catches shoppers savoring the cool mountain air before a performance.



PART of SM City Baguio's series of terraces

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Joan Bondoc

SM CITY Baguio ranks as the 16th mall in the chain's long list of malls to open, but it offers shoppers a number of firsts. For one, it's the first of its kind to depart from the shoebox-type architecture associated with earlier shopping malls.

Walking through its earth-toned interiors in ochre and terra cotta, with dark, rustic tiles for its floor and Baguio stones for its baseboards and accent walls, is like being transported to another world. Oblique-shaped metal railings painted in gold, black and silver impart a retro feel to the place.

If not for the familiar initials, one would never mistake this mall for another one of those generic-looking SM malls.

BAGUIO City's newest landmark gets visitors from the mountains and lowlands up north.

Multilevel terraces

A multinational team of designers and contractors—composed of Design International, New Golden City, DA Abcede and Associates, and Jose Siao Ling and Associates—was responsible for thinking literally and figuratively outside the box to make the mall exploit the most of Baguio's cool mountain air and breathtaking scenery.

Multilevel terraces, inspired by the world-famous Banaue Rice Terraces, provide shoppers with ample space to wine and dine or to simply cool their heels as they savor the view. Driving from one point of Baguio to another to get the best vistas has become unnecessary, as the mall offers a 360-degree view of the thriving city and the emerald-green mountains beyond.

SM City Baguio, which sits on a 79,763-sq-m property on an elevated area of Session Road, is where the Pines Hotel was once located. With a total floor area of 106,231 sq m, the mall is home to hundreds of shops and restaurants, a number of which are home-grown names (*see related stories*). And like other SM malls elsewhere, it has a department store, supermarket and four fully air-conditioned cinemas.

Since the mall follows the land's sloping terrain, the front side has only three levels, while the back has five to six levels. Most of the restaurants and a performance venue are located on the terraces to take advantage of the view and nature's free air conditioning. And in a city where land is precious, the mall

OUT; D3

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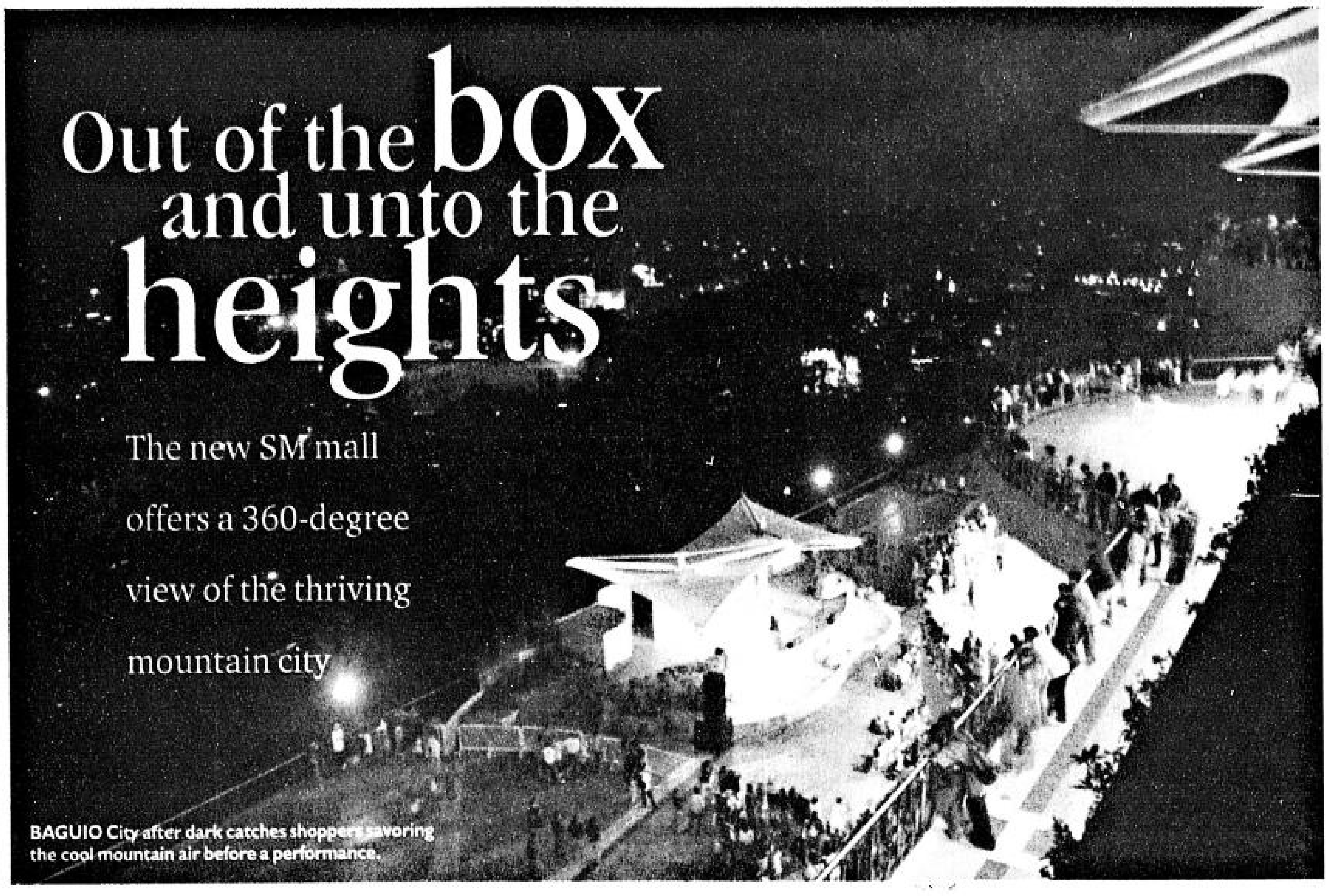
Out of the box and unto the heights

The new SM mall offers a 360-degree view of the thriving mountain city



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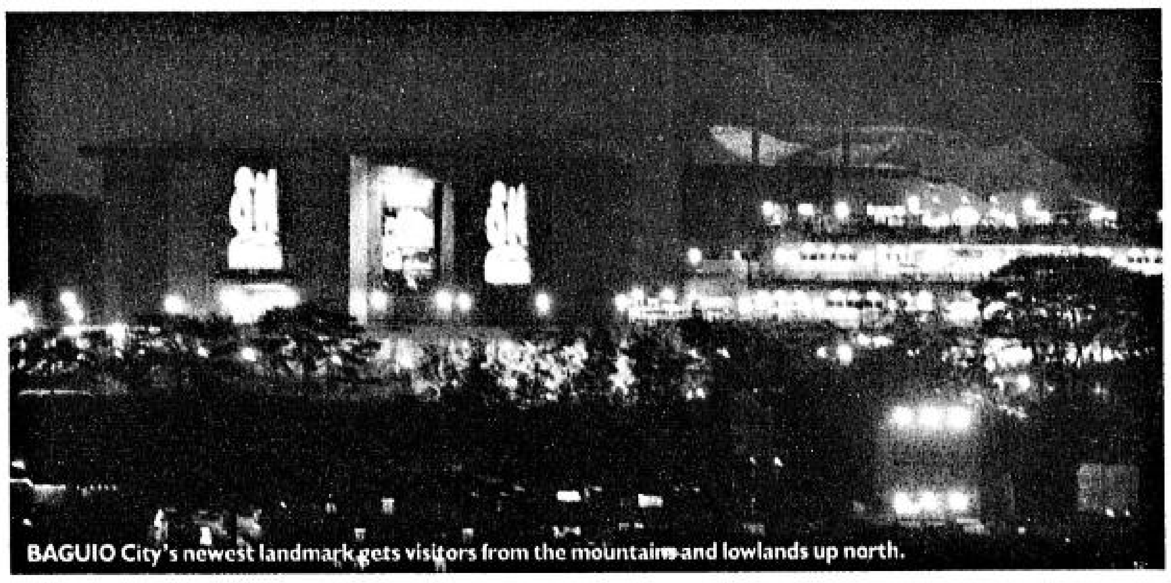

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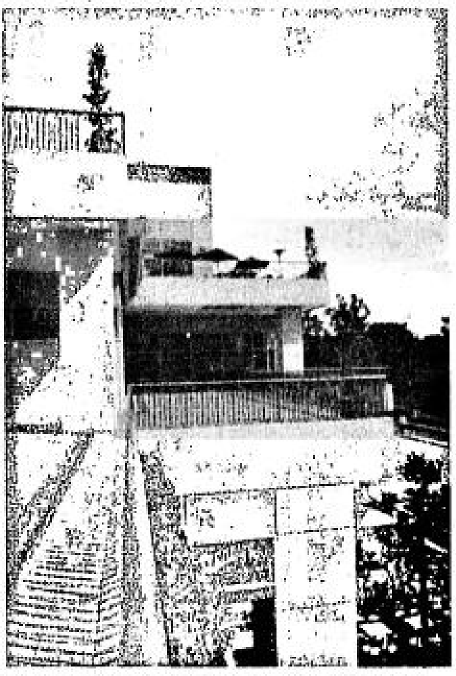

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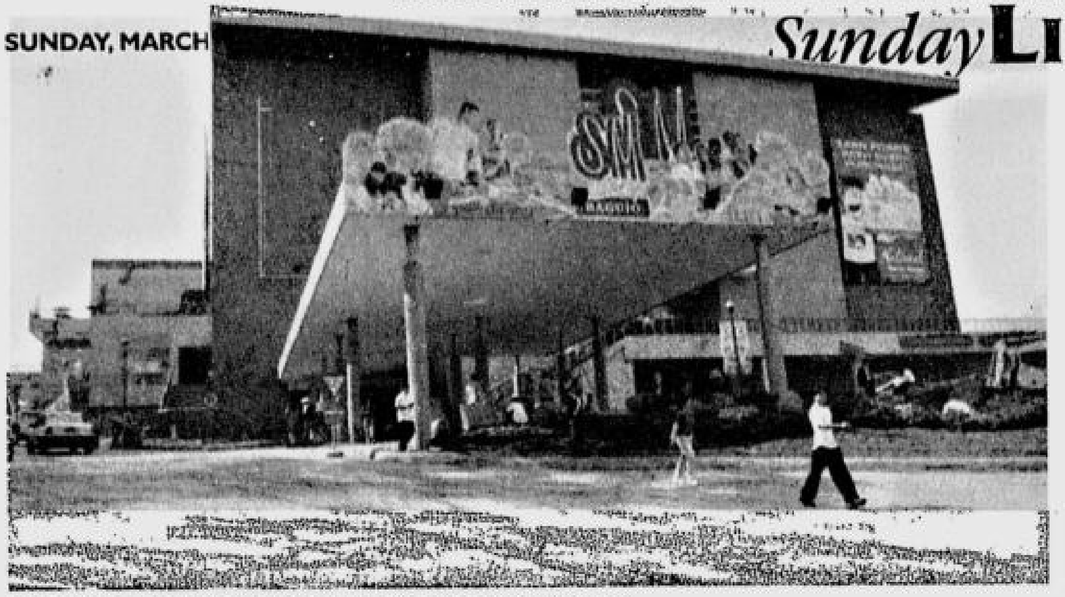
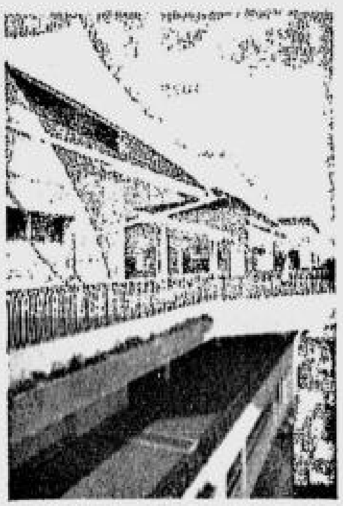


UBIQUITOUS initials give the offbeat structure's identity away.



NOT the circus big top

OBLIQUE-SHAPED metal railings give the mall a retro feel.

Out of the box and unto the heights

From page D2

has ample parking space for 800 vehicles.

"The shoebox-type design was a product of its time and serves a practical purpose," says architect Jose Siao Ling. "It kept the heat and the sunlight out to preserve the merchandise and keep shoppers comfortable. Since Baguio is cool and far from dusty, SM did away with its previous standard when it decided to build a mall here."

Energy savers

Short of using vernacular architecture made from wood and *cogon*, which the city's environmentalists initially insisted on, the mall's builders included a number of energy-saving features that also add to the building's unique charm.

The mall, for instance, saves on electricity, since almost 50 percent of the building is without air conditioning. Both wings are connected to an atrium, which in turn is wedged between the mall's open-air façade and rear entrance. A blunt-shaped scenic elevator at the center of the atrium allows shoppers to see both mall and the terraces.

Natural air flows freely within this area, thanks to a series of rolled-up counterweight glass doors. Since metal sections above the doors are perforated, people who linger within the atrium experience natural ventilation even beyond mall hours.

The atrium's crowning glory is its off-white tensile roofing made from layers of Teflon and polyvinyl chloride, which, like the masts of a giant cruise ship or a circus big top, can be seen from miles away.

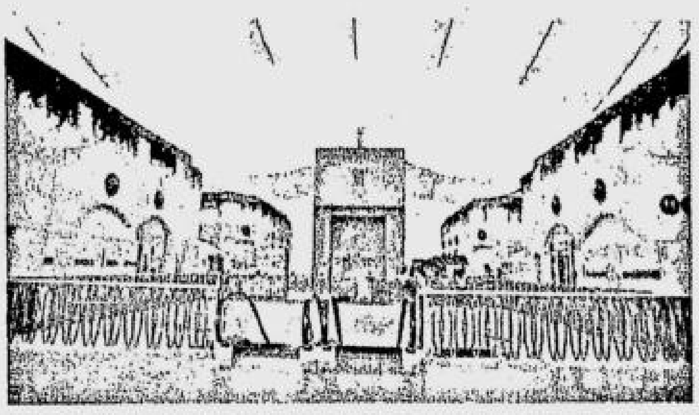
Its imposing beauty aside, the heat-resistant roofing serves a practical purpose: It deflects the sun's rays while allowing natural ventilation.

The Centennial Expo in Clark Field, Pampanga, and the Rockwell tennis courts were among the first establishments to use tensile roofing locally. SM City Baguio, however, holds the distinction of being the first mall in the country—and located in a mountain city at that—to use such material.

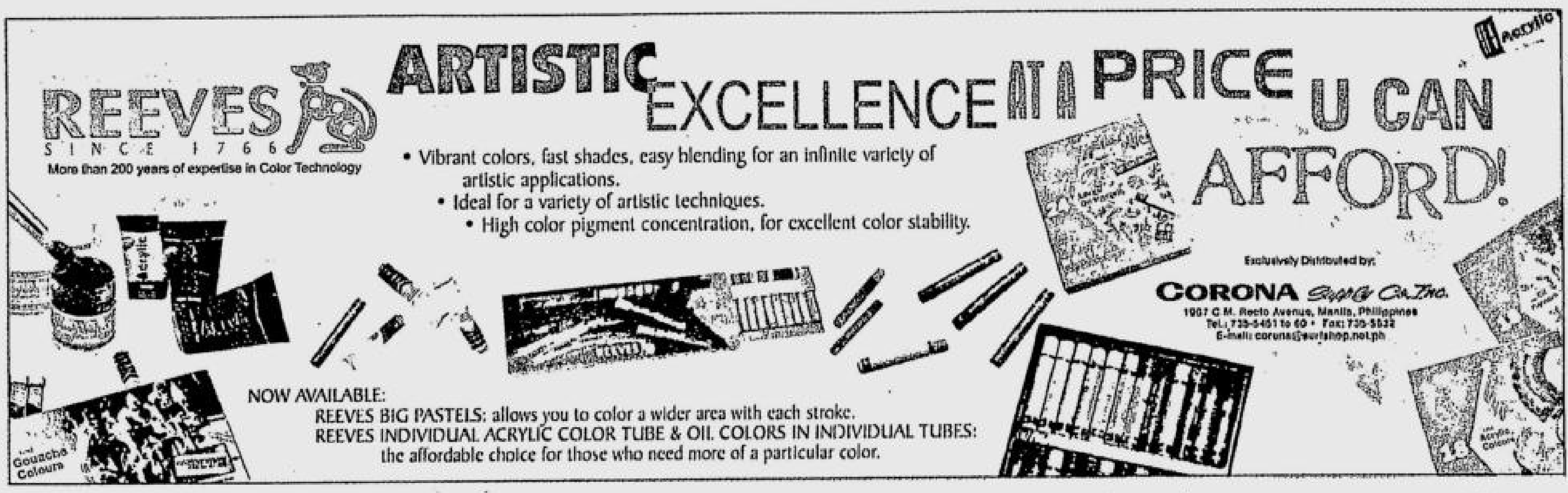
"Had we used ordinary roof and ceiling materials," says Siao Ling, "we wouldn't have achieved the same effect of filtering the heat and maintaining the cool temperature. This type of roofing is guaranteed to last 40 years."

Perhaps one of the best things the team did for the environment is to conserve Baguio's scarce water supply. A holding tank inside the mall gathers rainwater for irrigation, while a small sewage treatment plant recycles used water from sinks to flush toilets. The use of fresh water is limited to drinking and washing. The out-of-the-box system is typical of the trailblazing SM City Baguio.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



AIR CONDITIONING-FREE atrium



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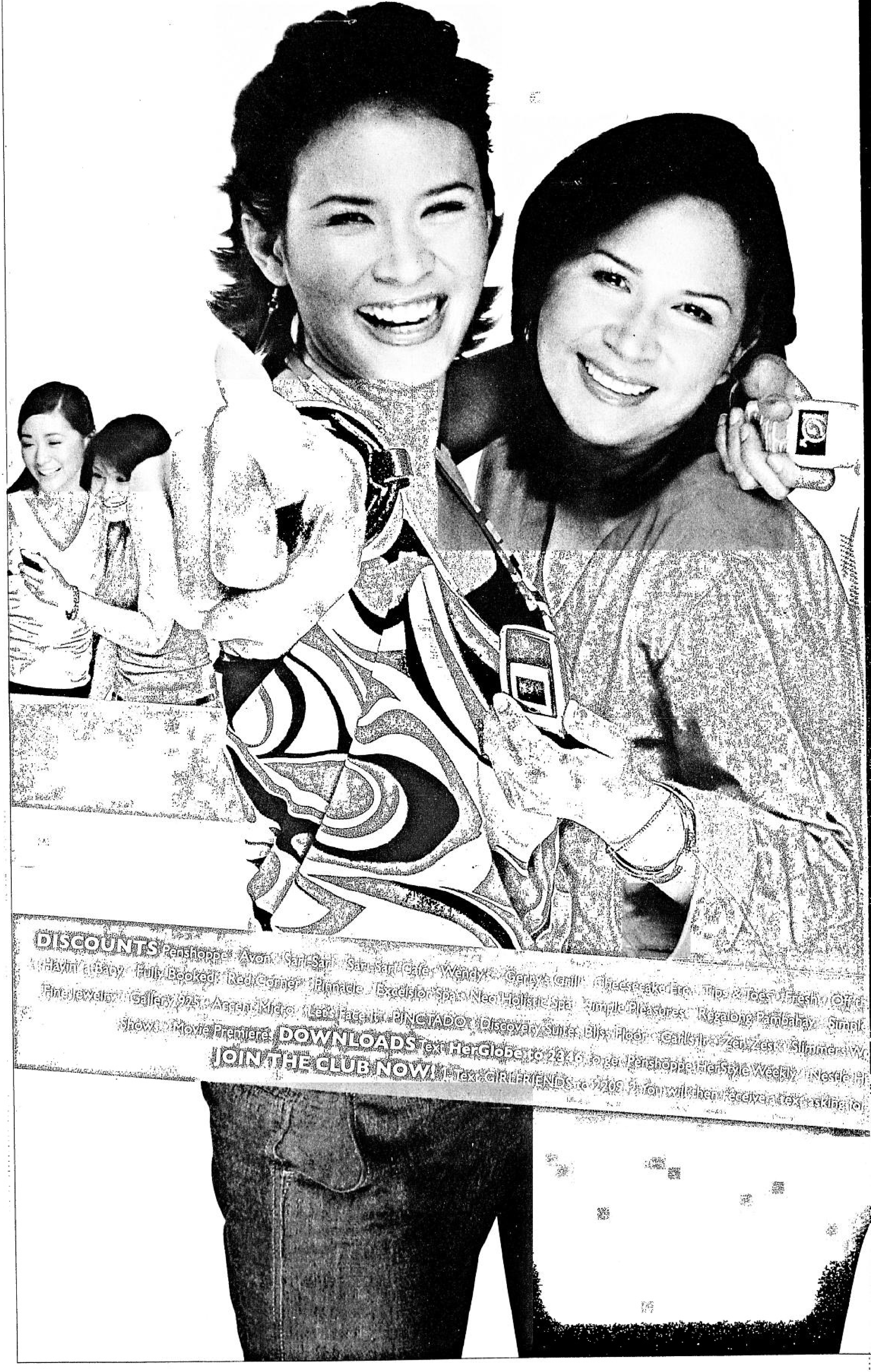

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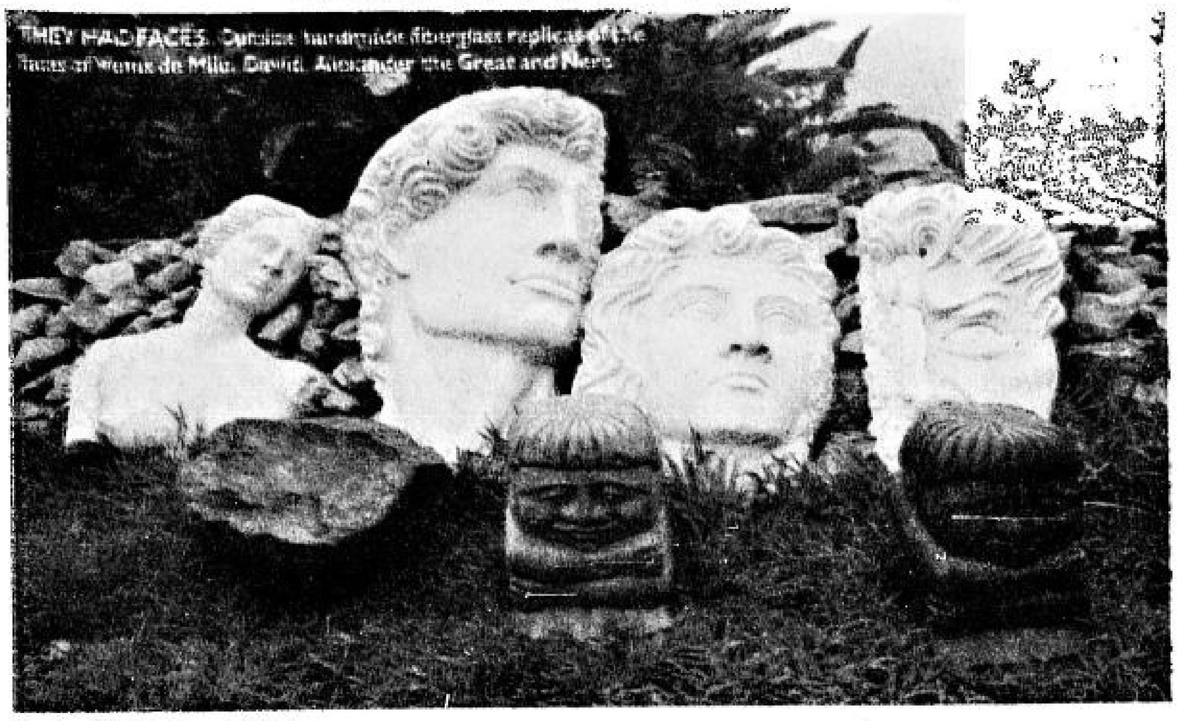
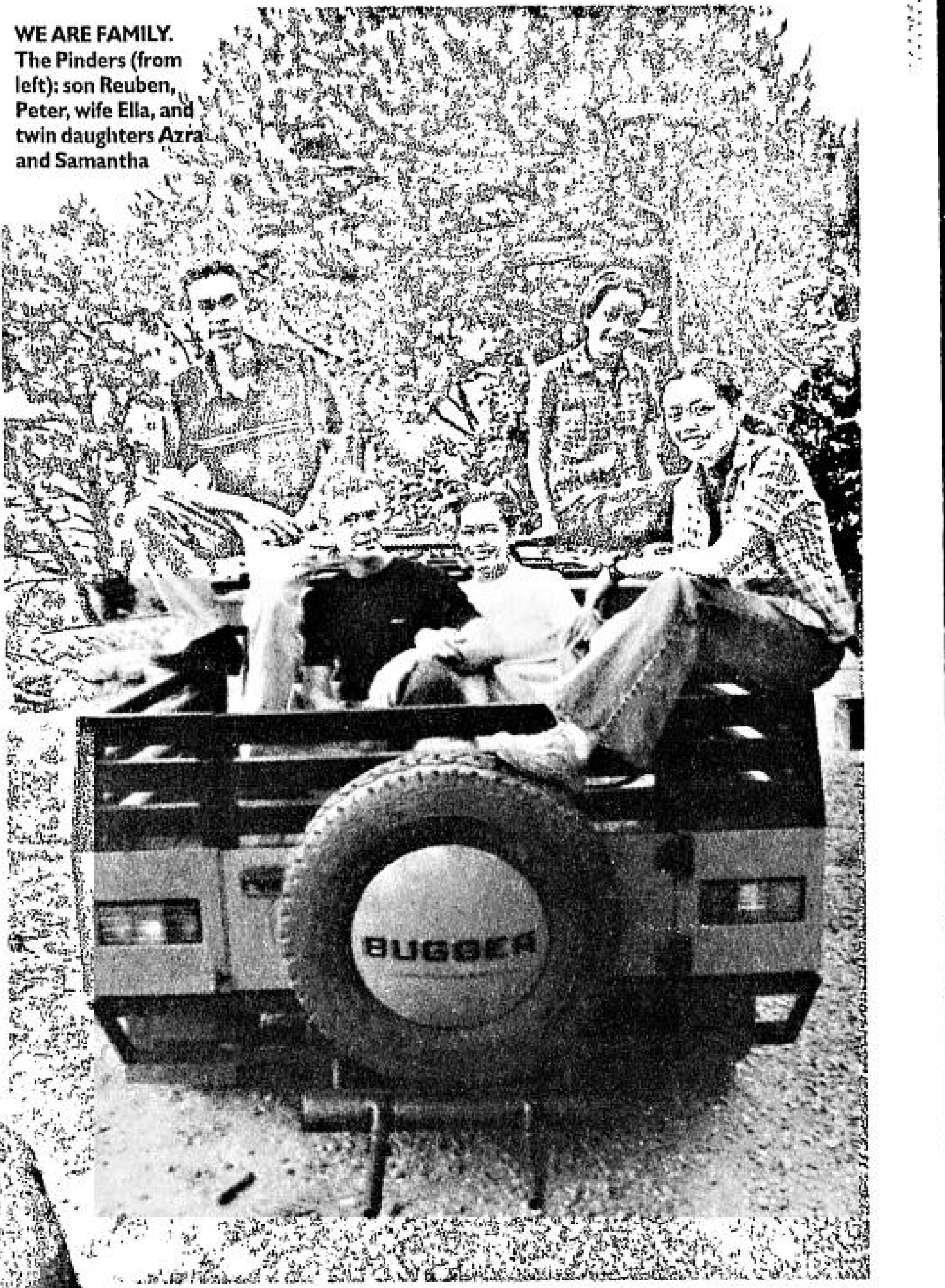


THEY HAD FACES. Outsize handmade fiberglass replicas of the faces of Venus de Milo, David, Alexander the Great and Nero



WE ARE FAMILY. The Pinders (from left): son Reuben, Peter, wife Ella, and twin daughters Azra and Samantha

Art from the highlands

From page D1

and Nero? All fiberglass, too.

Count as well the stone benches, waterfalls, reproductions of ancient artworks such as South American totem sculptures and Ifugao *bulols*, even an elephant emerging full-grown from a curtain of green hanging plants by the side, and you get an idea of the unique skill Pinder brings to the industrial-strength material that is fiberglass.

"I've always liked doing things, even as a kid," says Pinder, 50, a Briton who has lived in Baguio since 1975. He first came to the Philippines in 1972, and came back for good three years later.

Pinder's first large-scale fiberglass project was a 10-ft-high waterfall inside the former Hyatt Terraces Hotel. It had authentic-looking boulders which Pinder molded from real rock. Unfortunately, the Baguio earthquake in 1990 demolished the hotel and buried the faux waterfall underneath.

From rock formations, Pinder shifted to rock furniture. These days, he does mostly commissioned works of stools, benches and other outdoor furniture in stone-like forms, complete with natural hues and the infinitesimal dents and pockmarks of the elements.

How does he come up with the extremely naturalistic colors? "That's a mixture of secret ingredients," he says.

Next on his agenda is steel. Even now he's busy retrofitting a truck in both fiberglass and steel. The engine is vintage Volkswagen (still working, of course), and the interiors will be in leather. Needless to say, the oddity of it all is no barrier to Pinder's boundless ingenuity.

This transplanted artist has even ventured into politics—sort of. His sculptural chess set of major Philippine political figures made it to the cover of INQUIRER's Jan. 20, 2003 cover. Only 100 sets are available for collectors. "Let's see if you can change history with the game," he says.

HOT SEAT. Azra Pinder atop one of her father's signature works, a fiberglass boulder seat molded from real rock

Bronze master

If Pinder has carved his niche in fiberglass, Ben-Hur Villanueva has made his in bronze.

Villanueva, 65, is a past president of the Philippine Society of Sculptors, and was an art teacher at the Ateneo de Manila grade school for 30 years. In 1999, he retired and moved to Baguio, where he established Arko ni Apo, his home-cum-gallery.

"For a long time, I did a lot of art-related 'sidelines' to make ends meet," says Villanueva. "I didn't have a marketing manager, so I left it to people to like my work."

And liked them they did. Among Villanueva's many landmark works are the 8-ft-tall bronze sculpture of St. Aloysius Gonzaga at the St. Louis University campus and a 6-ft monument of Christ with open arms, called "Thy Will Be Done," at St. Paul's College-QC. He is set to create a 7-ft shrine to St. Vincent de Paul for the Vincentians Fathers in Tandang Sora, QC.

"Work is meditation for me," says the deeply religious artist. "I'm always inspired by my wife, my family, the environment around me."

Aside from bronze, Villanueva has worked with marble, wood, even scrap materials. He considers National Artist Napoleon Abueva and Solomon Saprid among his influences.

About 15 of Villanueva's sculptures, as well as the paintings of his equally accomplished multimedia artist son Bumbo, were exhibited in Singapore last year. Unsold pieces will go on exhibit again this April as part of the Singapore Arts Festival.

Villanueva sees these events as a way to reach out to more people through his art. "I consider myself *taga-bundok*, so I always try to promote the art and culture of the Cordilleras," he says.

Those who can't afford his pricier works are welcome to browse through the various ethnic knickknacks displayed at Arko ni Apo.

The small shop is a veritable showroom of striking sculptural images, a testament to Villanueva's abundant imagination and aptitude in a range of heavy materials, be it hardwood or brass.

One of the most visually arresting is a carving of a supine torso in *molave*, with a giant pin stuck to its belly. The title is "Enough is Enough."

"I made it after my wife has had eight children," says Villanueva, laughing.

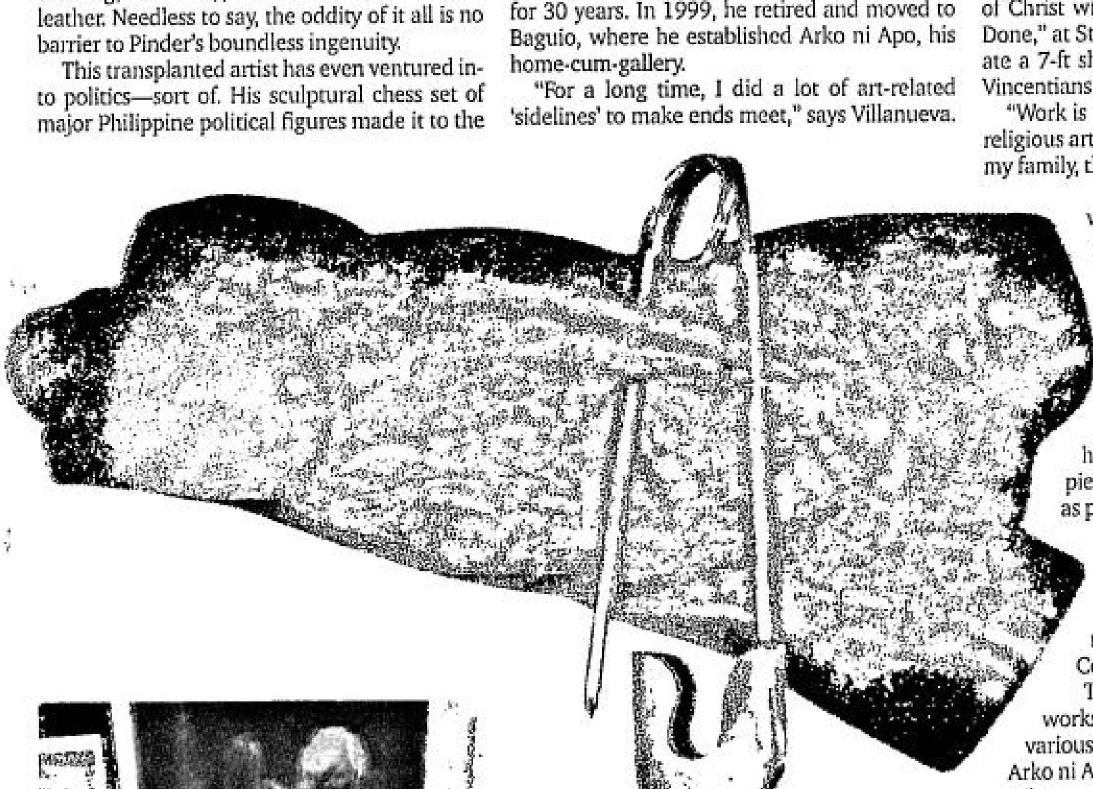
Word of mouth has made Arko ni Apo, which faces the entrance to the popular Tam-Awan Village of artists, another Baguio staple: a destination for visitors hungry for a whiff of highland art.

Peter Pinder's studio is at Km. 8, Asin Road, Tuba, Benguet (tels. 0917-9216421, 0917-3624184). Ben-Hur Villanueva's Arko ni Apo is on Tacay Road, Tam-Awan Village, Baguio City (tels. 074-4456052, 0918-9119850).

Lifestyle Goes to Baguio was sponsored by SM City Baguio

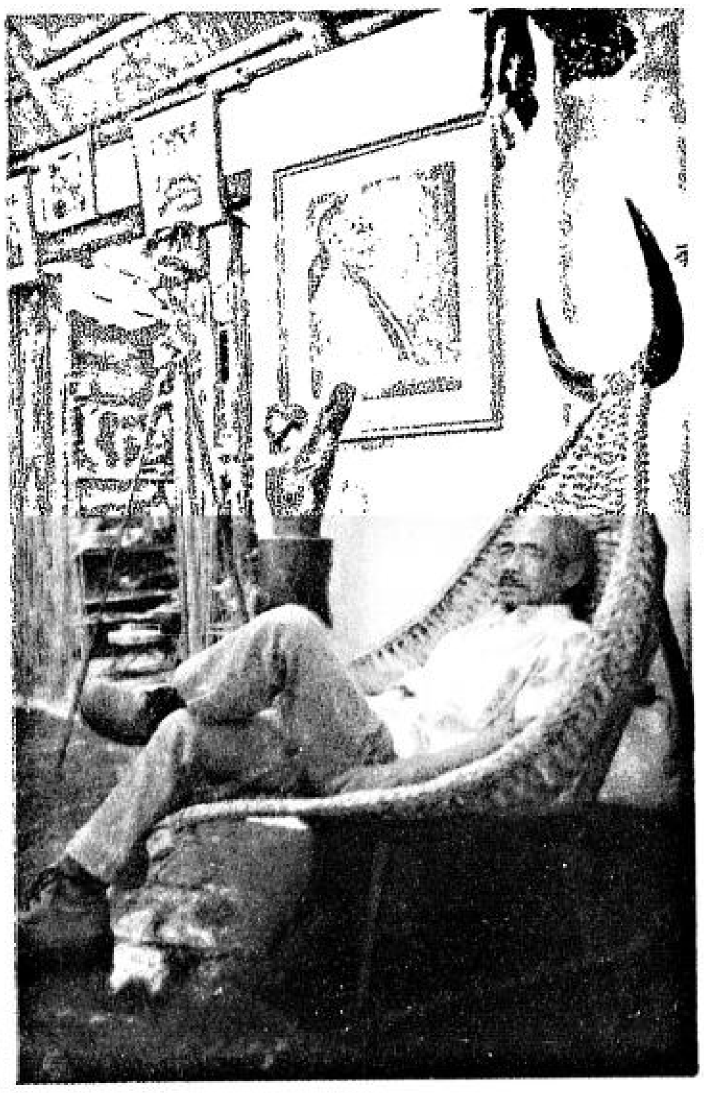
E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph

GUARDIAN OF THE REALM. Replica of a Qin dynasty terra-cotta soldier

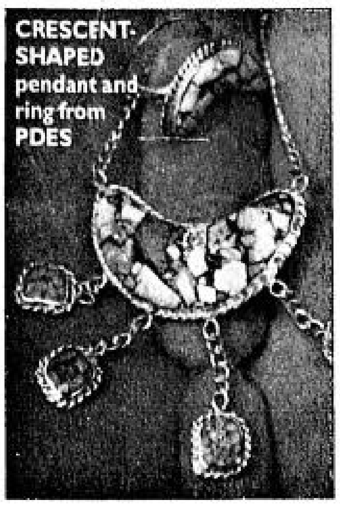


"ENOUGH IS ENOUGH" (*molave*) by Villanueva

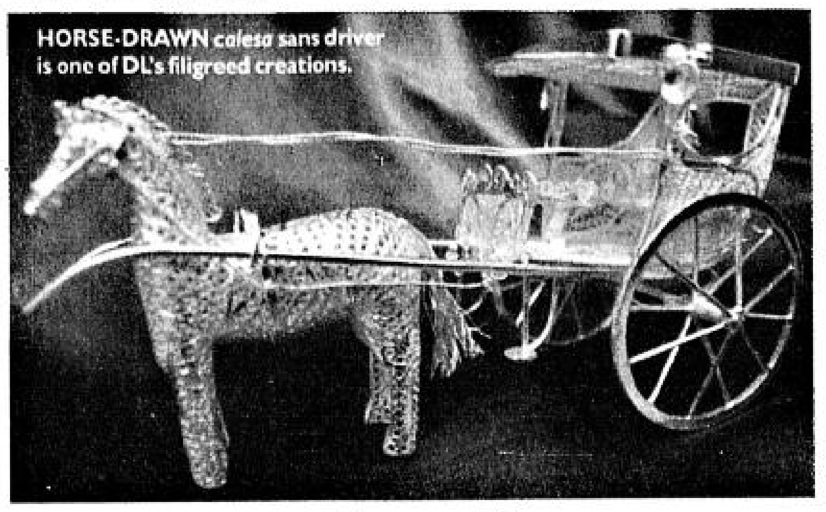
SMALL MIRACLES. Villanueva's miniature models of 8-ft-tall St. Aloysius Gonzaga monument at St. Louis University (top) and 6-ft-tall Christ statue at St. Paul's College-QC called "Thy Will Be Done" (right)



PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST. "I'm more creative if I have less material. Without material, *nakakagawa pa rin ako ng paraan* to get one," says Ben-Hur Villanueva.



CRESCENT-SHAPED pendant and ring from PDES



HORSE-DRAWN *calesa* sans driver is one of DL's filigreed creations.

ONE of the country's most endearing symbols is cast in silver by DL.

Celebrating silver

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Joan Bondoc

The jewelry-making industry introduced by Belgian missionaries has become one of Baguio's sparkling attractions

ASIDE from strawberry jams, brooms and the man in the barrel, Baguio is best known for its exquisite silver jewelry. And this fact wasn't lost on SM City Baguio, as it now houses several of the city's leading silversmiths.

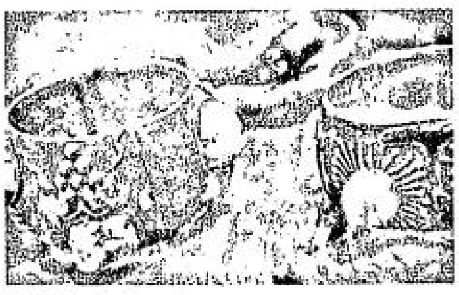
As its name implies, PDES Batong Asul specializes in silver jewelry with turquoise pendants and accents imported from Arizona. The blue stone comes in round, oblong, square and crescent shapes.

Among PDES' best-selling items are those shaped like stars and butterflies—think Mariah Carey. Its SM store also carries silver rings, bracelets, necklaces and pendants in either enamel or oxidized finish, which exudes an antique feel.

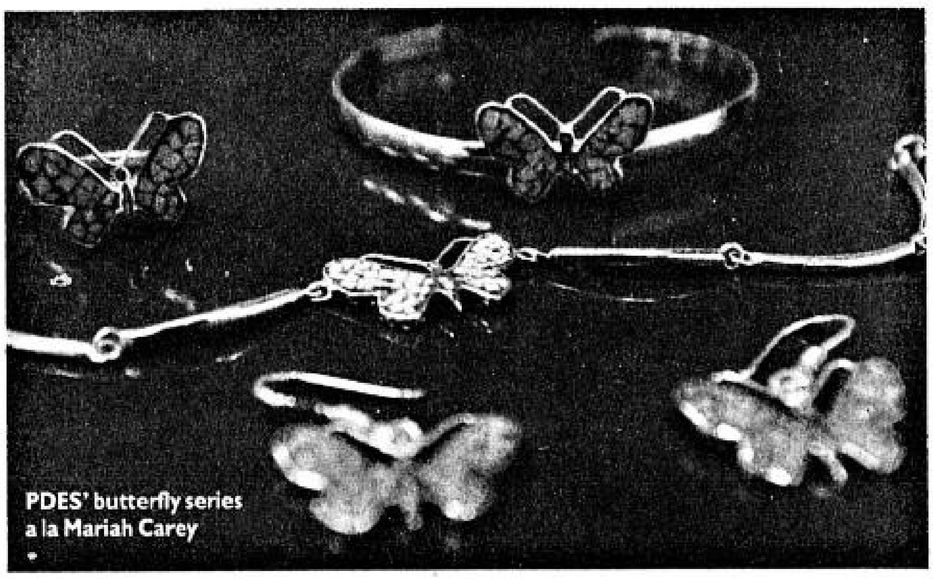
Prices range from P150 for a basic silver ring to a little over P1,000 for bigger pieces such as necklaces and charm bracelets with more complicated turquoise settings.

A growing number of engaged couples now troop to PDES for inexpensive but elegant-looking wedding bands. Shopaholic Korean and Japanese tourists are also known to frequent their shops, averaging P3,000 worth of purchases per visit.

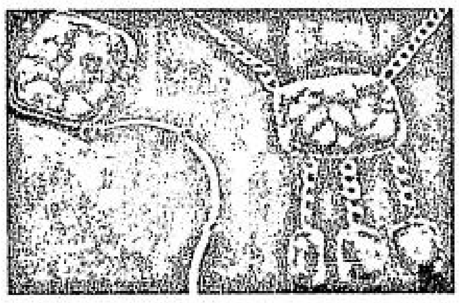
"Our products are all made of sterling silver," says Dr. Henry Galuba, who, with his wife Elizabeth, owns and manages two stores in Baguio. "The silver content isn't lower than 92.5 percent."



DL'S chunky bangles



PDES' butterfly series a la Mariah Carey



BLUE stone is actually turquoise.

Sterling and filigree

DL Silver International, on the other hand, carries both sterling and filigree items. The latter, which is more pliant because of its 95 percent silver content, is ideal for making lace-like silver pieces and figurines such as jeepneys, calesas and tricycles. Some figurines fetch between P3,000 to P9,000.

DL's silver goods also appeal to both Filipinos and foreigners, many of whom are Japanese and Hong Kong-based Chinese tourists. Its other shop is located at the Baguio market.

"When we began retailing our products in 1977," says Diego Maranan, who has been in the business since the 1950s as a manufacturer, "our store offered shoppers silver and gold-plated jewelry. Silver proved to be much more salable than gold, so we eventually ended up limiting our products to silver."

Elizabeth Galuba's family was also into manufacturing, supplying silver pieces to some of the country's leading jewelry stores, until she and her husband decided to go into retailing in the early 1990s.

Oddly enough, both companies source most of their raw materials not from Baguio, but from Meycauayan, a town in Bulacan famous for its gold jewelry. Not that people in Meycauayan have suddenly struck silver.

"The silver we use is a byproduct of gold during the purification process," Galuba explains. "In fact, silver [jewelry] manufacturing started in Meycauayan before the 1950s before it moved to Baguio."

When Belgian missionaries, who were experts in jewelry-making themselves, came to Baguio in the early 1950s, they trained a number of locals in crafting jewelry.

For some reason, these pioneers were more drawn to the sheen of silver than the glitter of gold. Now, the industry they spawned has become one of Baguio's sparkling attractions.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

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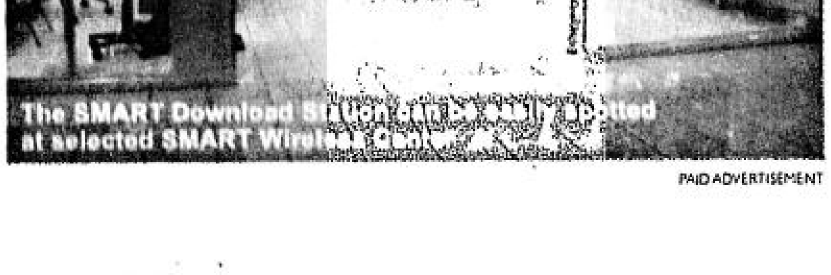

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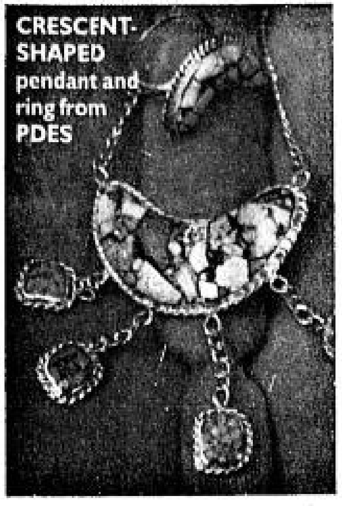

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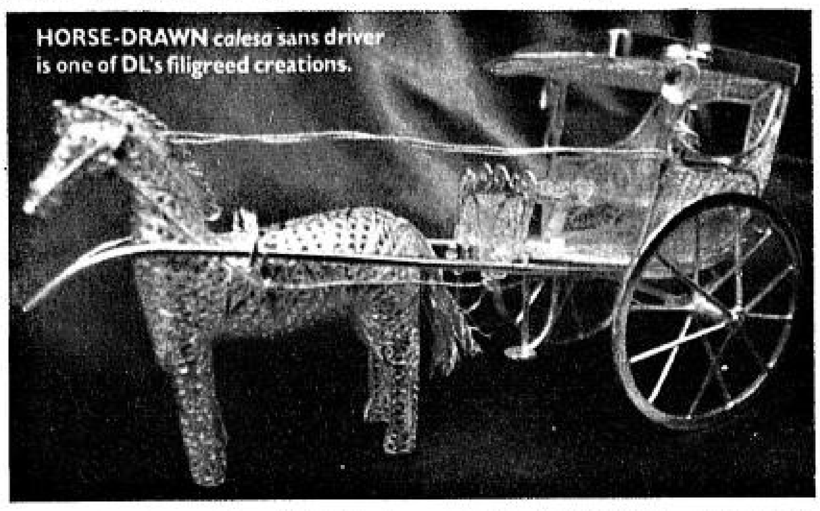

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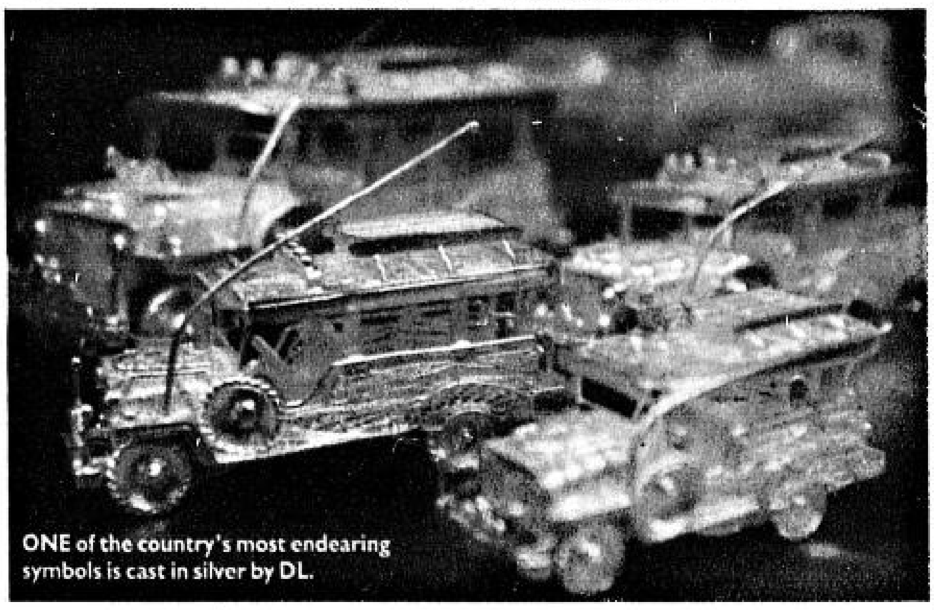

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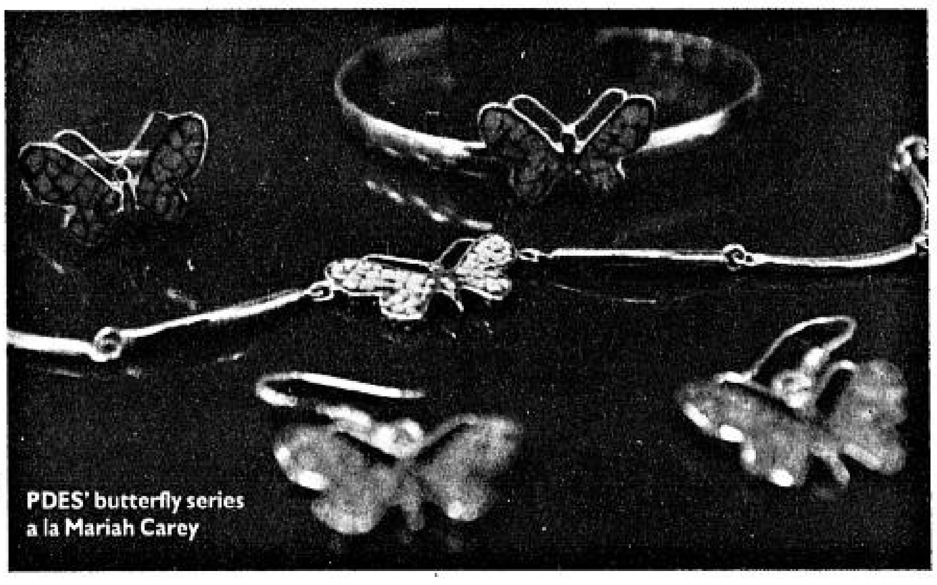
A growing number of engaged couples now troop to PDES for inexpensive but elegant-looking wedding bands. Shopaholic Korean and Japanese tourists are also known to frequent their shops, averaging P3,000 worth of purchases per visit.

DL'S chunky bangles

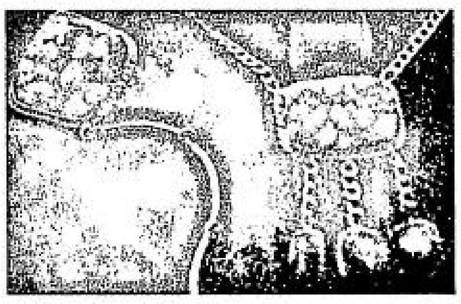


PDES' butterfly series a la Mariah Carey

"Our products are all made of sterling silver," says Dr. Henry Galuba, who, with his wife Elizabeth, owns and manages two stores in Baguio. "The silver content isn't lower than 92.5 percent."

Sterling and filigree

DL Silver International, on the other hand, carries both sterling and filigree items. The latter, which is more pliant because of its 95 percent silver content, is ideal for making lace-like silver pieces and figurines such as jeepneys, calesas and tricycles. Some figurines fetch between P3,000 to P9,000.



BLUE stone is actually turquoise.

DL's silver goods also appeal to both Filipinos and foreigners, many of whom are Japanese and Hong Kong-based Chinese tourists. Its other shop is located at the Baguio market.

"When we began retailing our products in 1977," says Diego Maranan, who has been in the business since the 1950s as a manufacturer, "our store offered shoppers silver and gold-plated jewelry. Silver proved to be much more salable than gold, so we eventually ended up limiting our products to silver."

Elizabeth Galuba's family was also into manufacturing, supplying silver pieces to some of the country's leading jewelry stores, until she and her husband decided to go into retailing in the early 1990s.

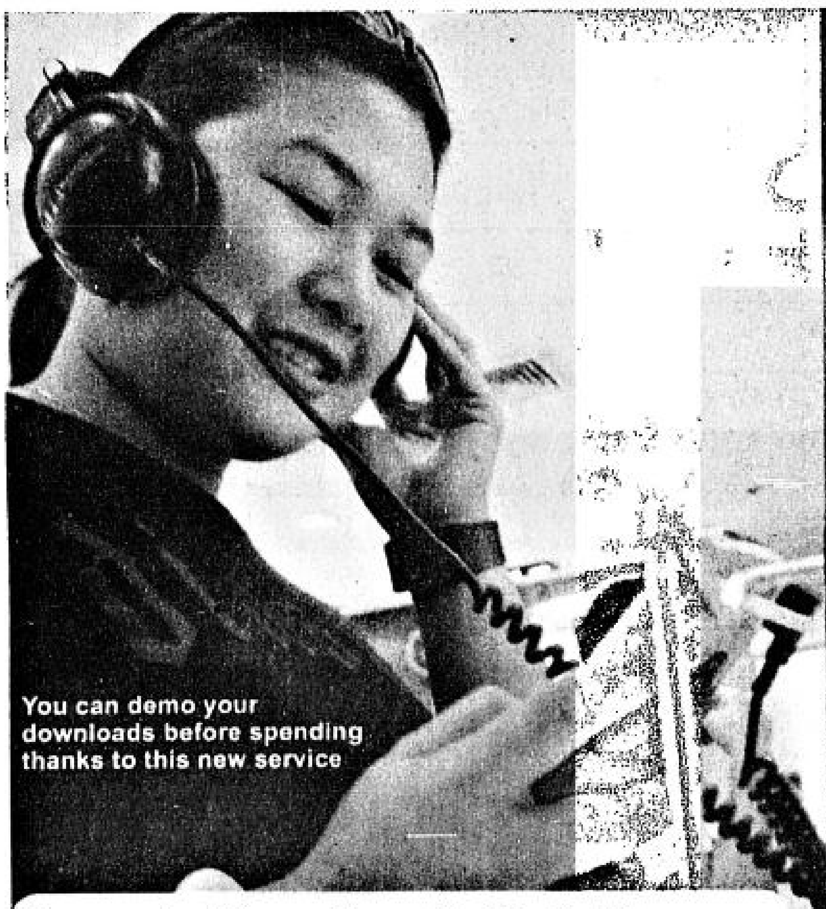
Oddly enough, both companies source most of their raw materials not from Baguio, but from Meycauayan, a town in Bulacan famous for its gold jewelry. Not that people in Meycauayan have suddenly struck silver.

"The silver we use is a byproduct of gold during the purification process," Galuba explains. "In fact, silver [jewelry] manufacturing started in Meycauayan before the 1950s before it moved to Baguio."

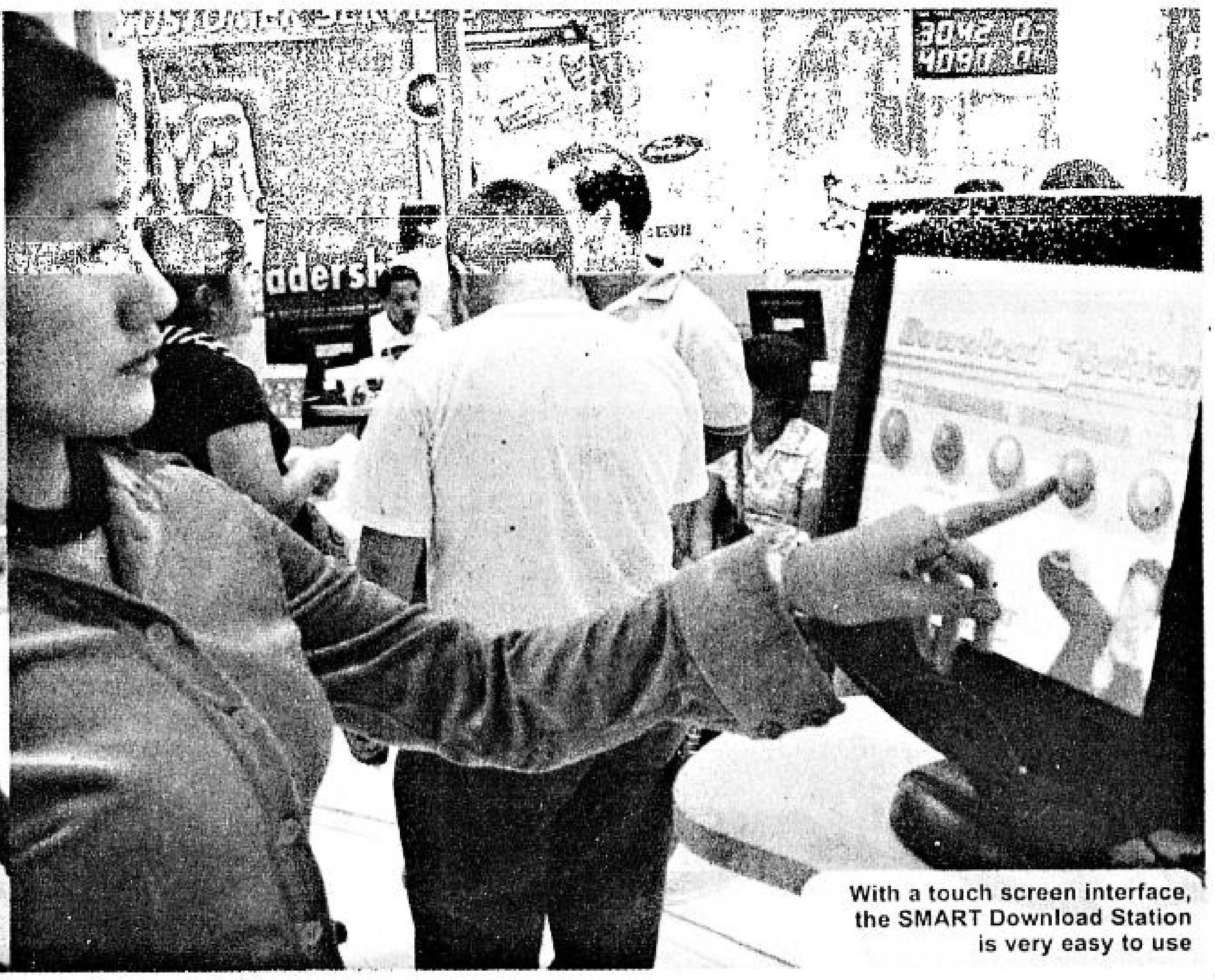
When Belgian missionaries, who were experts in jewelry-making themselves, came to Baguio in the early 1950s, they trained a number of locals in crafting jewelry.

For some reason, these pioneers were more drawn to the sheen of silver than the glitter of gold. Now, the industry they spawned has become one of Baguio's sparkling attractions.

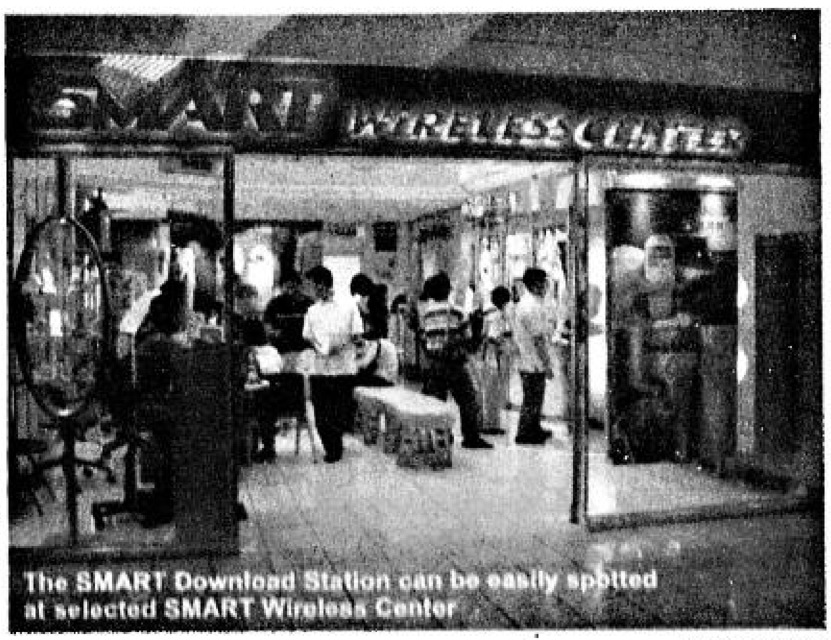
E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



You can demo your downloads before spending thanks to this new service



With a touch screen interface, the SMART Download Station is very easy to use



The SMART Download Station can be easily spotted at selected SMART Wireless Center

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Even as summer sizzles around us, everybody's looking for something cool to do. Of course, Filipinos have made an art out of personalizing their individual celfones. Downloading ringtones, operator logos, or picture messages adds a little of your own personality to your phone. Now imagine listening to ringtones before downloading them. Or checking out which operator logo you want before placing them on your phone.

That's exactly what you can do thanks to the latest innovation from SMART, the SMART Download Station. With a touch-screen interface that's so easy to use, any SMART subscriber can experience the convenience of downloading! Just head over to the SMART Download Station at selected SMART Wireless Centers nearest you.

Home of other techie innovations like the Tech Xperience, the SMART Wireless Center is your one-stop shop not just for the latest SMART celfones but the newest advancements in services and technology as well. You can demo hundreds of ringtones, polyphonic ringtones, operator logos, picture messages, MMS images, karaoke tunes, and Java games with a few simple presses of the Download Stations.

Downloading has never been easier and more fun. With the arrival of the SMART Download Station, you can test the services you want to download before actually spending for it. This hot new innovation will really keep you coming back for more. So watch out for the latest smart idea that's sure to bring even more sunshine to your summer!

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Comebacks for a bag and an iconic wrap

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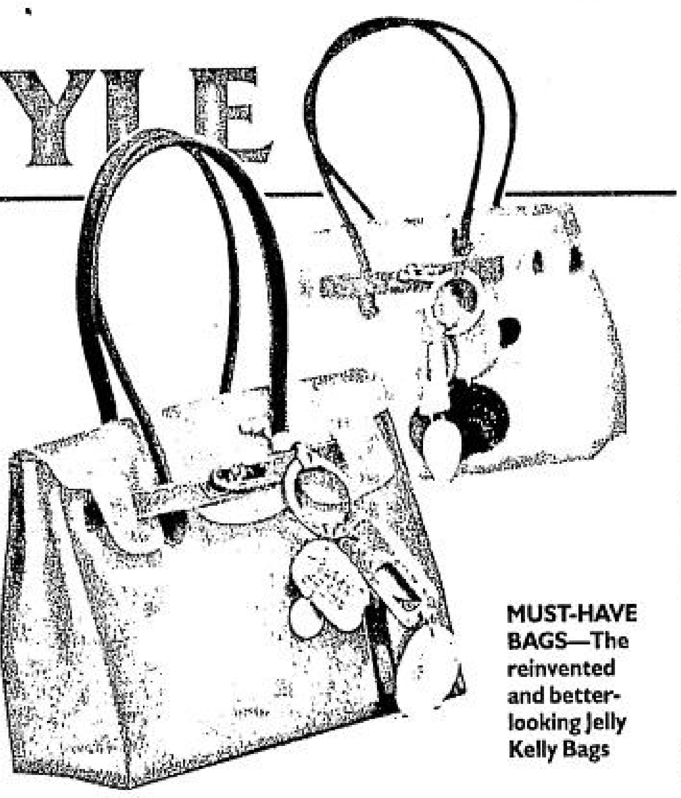
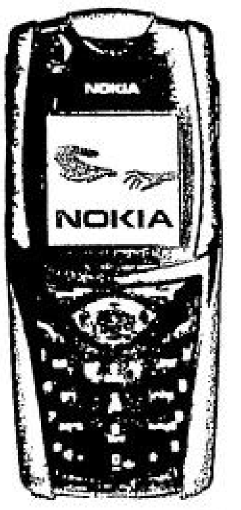
Anton San Diego



MUST-HAVE BAGS—The reinvented and better-looking Jelly Kelly Bags



MUST-HAVE PHONE—Nokia 5140

The latest Jelly Kelly incarnation is bursting with colors, and the trench coat is back on runways

MUST-HAVE bags—the reinvented and better-looking Jelly Kelly Bags. In its latest incarnation, the chic Jelly Kelly bag comes in a combination of jelly and leather or lizard combinations. It's the perfect summer bag with fun colors such as red, pink, white, green, orange, blue, black and fuchsia.

I was recently in Hong Kong, where my friends **Linda Ho Mcaffee** and **Bonnie Gokson** sold about 300 bags in one day. Some women even carted off with seven pieces at a time.

Yes, dears, you might be a tad tired of this bag by now, but its popularity is yet to peak, and its recent incarnations are highly coveted. Jelly Kelly bags are sold at Itsie Bitsie, 1755 Adriatico St., Malate, Manila. Call 5228592.

Move over botox, Restylane is here! Restylane is the latest age-defying product approved by the US Food and Drug Administration, and it's so much better than botox and collagen.

Restylane is made up of a natural substance found in the human joints called hyaluronic acid. This substance is injected into the skin, producing a faster and longer-lasting natural enhancement that is gentle and safe on your skin.

The effects last longer than botox and collagen, which are effective for up to four months only. Restylane, on the other hand, lasts for more than six months. It's also said to be safer, since the ingredients used are natural.

Restylane can be used to smoothen wrinkles, enhance lips and augment cheeks and chin. I assure you, this will be the hottest product in the market and on everyone's lips in the next few months.

Who does this procedure? None other than Dr. **Vicki Belo.** Call 8179283.

Must-have look—The return of the trench coat. With Spring/Summer collection 2004 paying homage to style icon **Marlene Dietrich,** the trench is back in winning form. The twist this time lies on lighter fabrics, more vibrant colors, and—the clincher—ultra-sexiness.

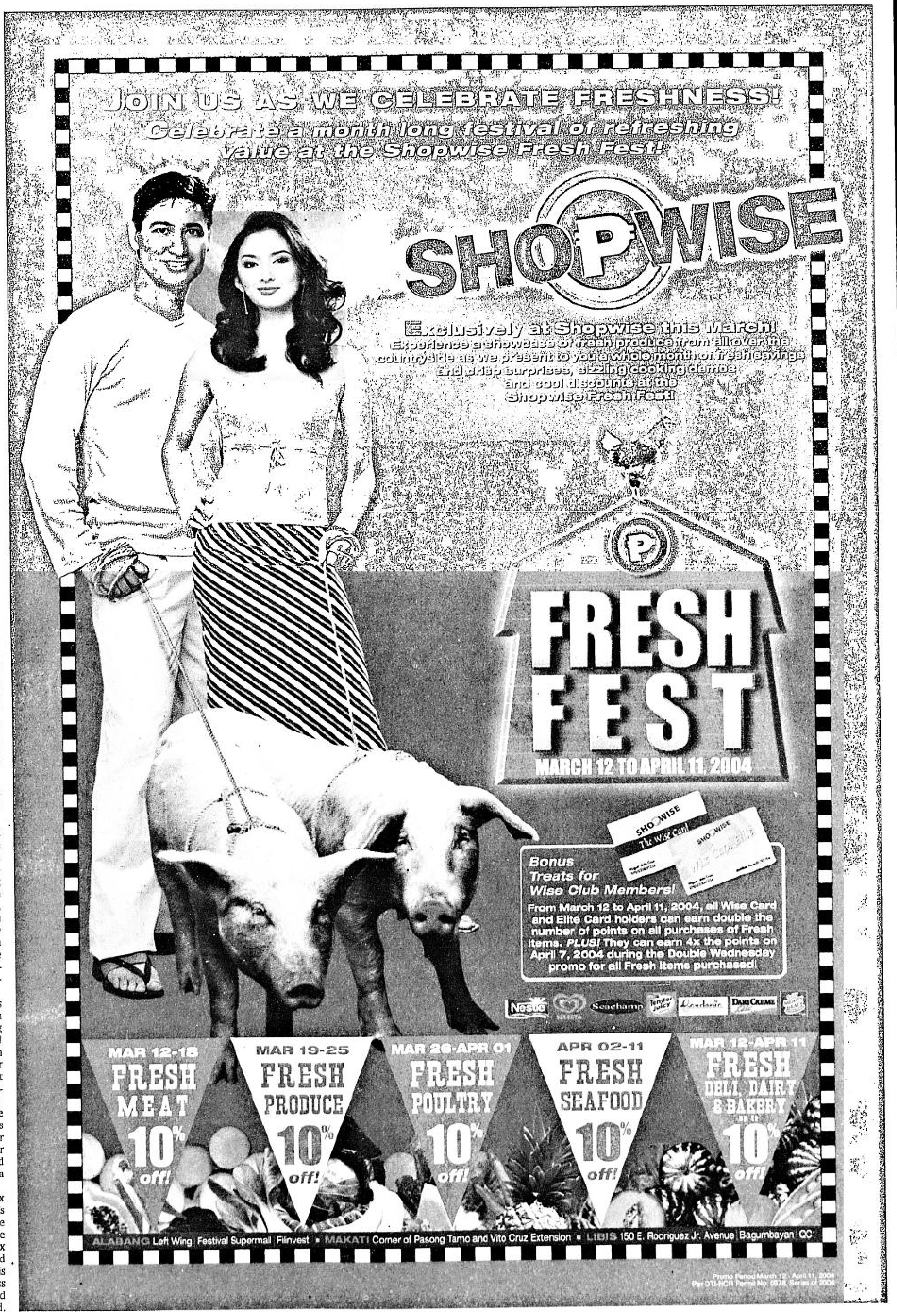
This year also sees the return of women of all ages dressing up again, thank God! So it's time to banish that hip-hop or grunge look and start looking pretty, feminine and sexy again.

Big sunglasses are also in, shoulder bags are smaller and color is king, so ditch your black wardrobe! And big hair is back in a major way.

Hot model—Alex Montez. In town is probably one of the hottest-looking male models today, **Alex Montez,** represented by Ideal Agency. He is of Portuguese/Swiss descent and has lived all over the world.

Over lunch at Max Brenner, I asked him several questions about his life and what brings

COMEBACKS/E2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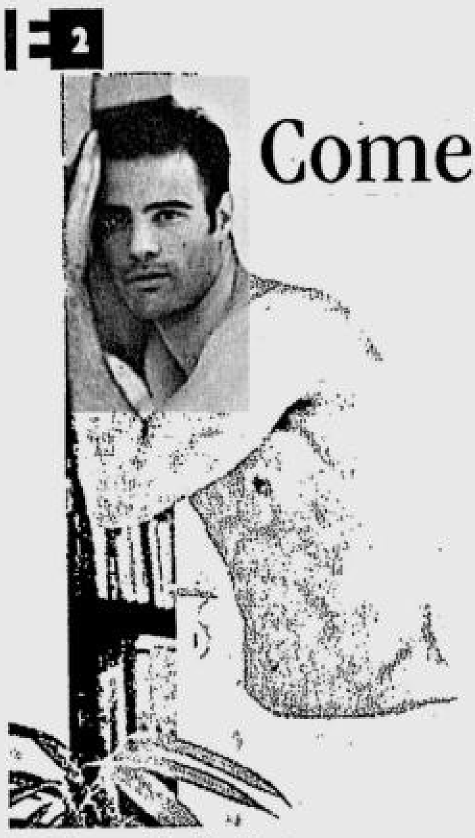
Comebacks for a bag and an iconic wrap


HOT, hot model—Alex Montez

From page E1

him to this side of the world.

What do you like about living in Asia, I asked him.

"I love the life here," he said. "The people are very kind and friendly."

And how does he react when people say that modeling is superficial? "The job itself is not superficial; people make it that way," he said.

"Everyone has a goal in life and everyone should try and find his/her own happiness. If they find it, they should pursue it. I think I have found mine," added Alex.

Must-have phone—Nokia 5140. It doesn't look like the most stylish phone in the market, but the Nokia 5140 may be the most fun and economical.

It has the same technology as the other phones: built-in camera, tri-band, radio, etc., but this one has something else people may find interesting. It has the PTT (push-to-talk) feature that converts the phone to a walkie-talkie, allowing users to connect with one or more callers.

The big question is, if it is like a walkie-talkie, does that mean you don't have to pay? Now that's something everyone would love! Nokia 5140 will be out in the market by summer.

TNT's famous last words Last weekend, I was in HK for some R&R. After breaking up with someone the night before and for the nth time, I decided to go with my friends to Dragon I for some drinks. Bad idea. I drank everything in front of me: beer, wine, martinis and champagne. I also ate two hotdogs at a nearby hotdog stand on our way home at 3 a.m.

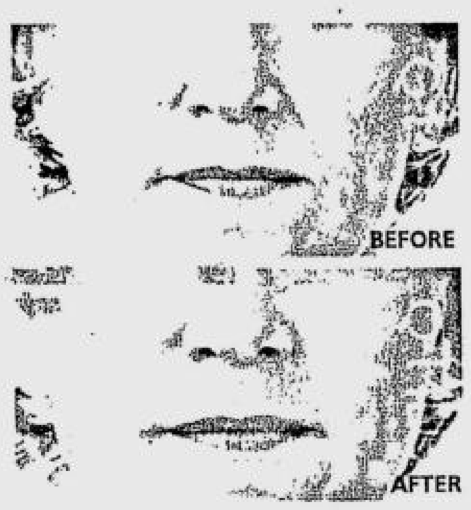
I woke up later with a terrible urge to go to the bathroom. Well, the good news is I made it to the bathroom. The bad news is I fainted. When I woke up I was on the floor, all bloodied up from a gash just above my right eye. Since it was 6 a.m., I didn't want to rouse my hosts/friends. Lucky for me, I found a savior in their amah, **Pansy**, who drove me to the hospital.

Let me say it's never comforting to have an accident, more so when you are not in your own country. The hospital I went to was state-of-the-art and the medical staff more than competent, but it still didn't feel right. Before they stitched my eye, I was asked if I wanted a cosmetic surgeon. I said yes, of course, but changed my mind when they said the price would be triple. I just told the attending doctor to please be nice.

To say that I had a most traumatic weekend is an understatement. Big lesson? Never break up, get drunk and eat hotdogs! Seriously, despite everything, I think I came out of the experience fine and fab!

E-mail the author at antonsd@philtatler.com

MUST-HAVE LOOK—The return of the trench coat



MUST-HAVE beauty treatment—Restylane. Move over, Botox!

Women of ballet at Concert at the Park

MUSIC focusing on women protagonists of classical full-length ballets formally ends Concert at the Park's month-long tribute to women at 6 p.m. tonight.

Featured are secondary and tertiary level students of Ecole de Ballet, Manille, under the artistic direction of Nina Anonas de Santos.

Hosting the concert, a weekly public service project of the National Parks Development Committee under executive director Jaime K. Recio, and the National Broadcasting Network, is Minette Padilla.

Concert at the Park is aired at 6 p.m., Mondays, over Channel 4. It is directed for television by Villamor Paredes. Script is by Gie Villasor-Arnold. Freddie Edos is executive in charge of the concert project.

The program for "The Unforgettable Ladies of Ballet" includes Concerto Vivaldi, Pas de Trois from Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake Act 1, Minkus' Kitri Variation (music, choreography: Nina de Santos after Marius Petipa), Bach's Allegro (music, choreography: Miriam Madamba after Marius Petipa), White Swan pas de deux (music: Tchaikovsky, choreography: Nina de Santos after Marius Petipa); Cygnets (music: Tchaikovsky; choreography: Micki Josue after Marius Petipa), Big Swans (music: Tchaikovsky, choreography: Nina de Santos after Marius Petipa), Odette Variation (music: Tchaikovsky, choreography: Nina de Santos after Marius Petipa), Dance of the Princesses (music: Tchaikovsky, choreography: Tracey Castillo after Marius Petipa), Siegfried Variation (music: Tchaikovsky, choreography: Anatoli Panasiukov after Marius Petipa), Mirlitons (music: Tchaikovsky, choreography: Nina de Santos) and Antonio's Waltz (music: Glázunov, choreography: Tony Fabella).

Admission is free.

For toothache, migraine, and dysmenorrhea

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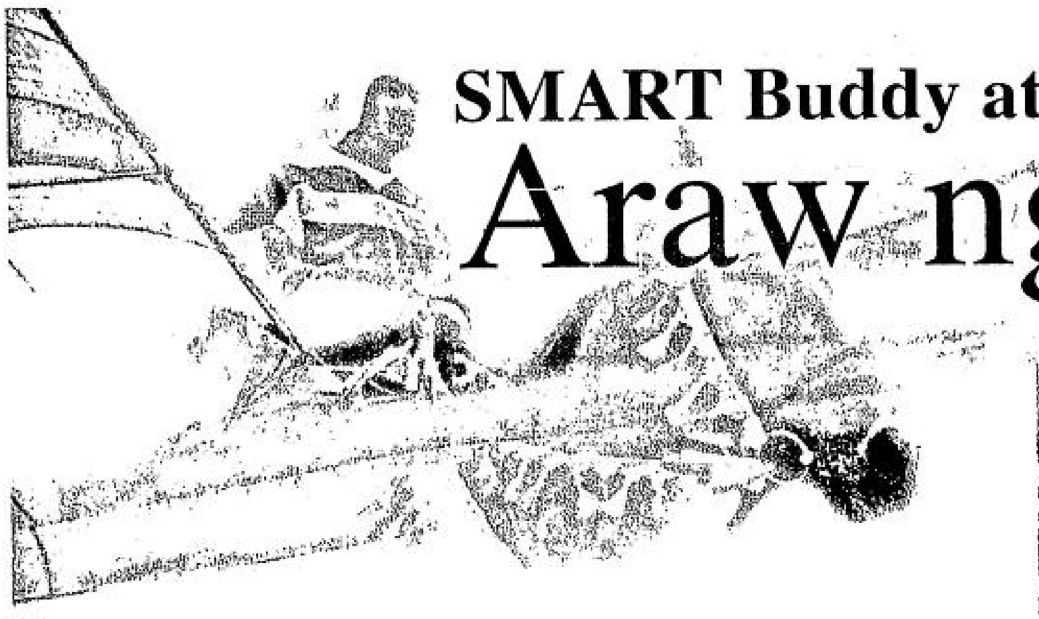
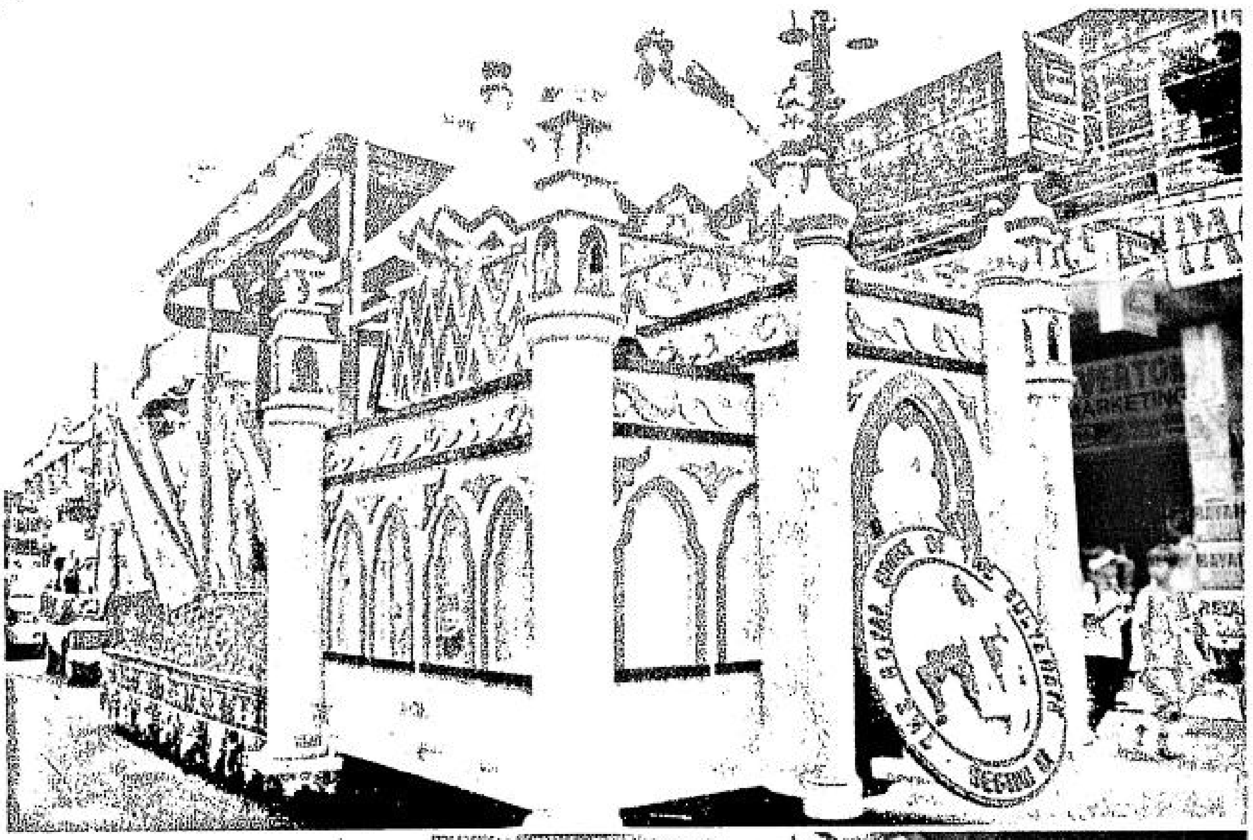
SMART Buddy at Araw ng Dabaw 2004



It's truly a different experience--a Philippine fiesta up close and personal, with the sun and drumbeats pounding into you incessantly. All the time and care escapes you as you allow yourself to be carried away by the moment. This year SMART Buddy gives you a front row to the most colourful tour of fiestas nationwide.

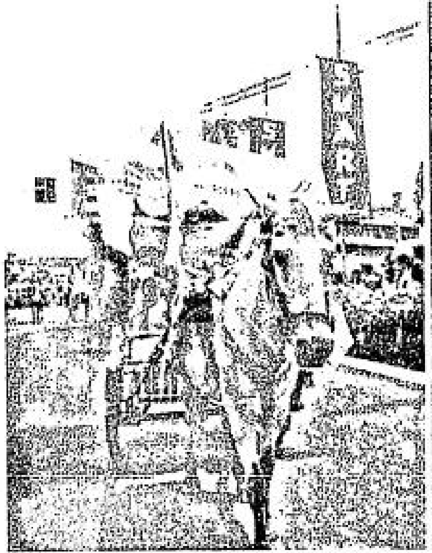


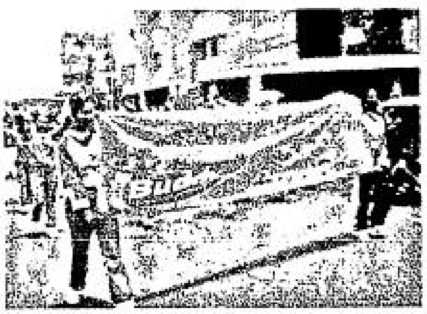
This particular moment belonged to the vibrant Araw ng Dabaw 2004 Festival, celebrating the 67th Charter Day of Davao. Second only to the famed Kadayawan, this particular round of revelry is nevertheless a source of pride and passion for Davaoenos, marking the founding of this historic southern landmark city.

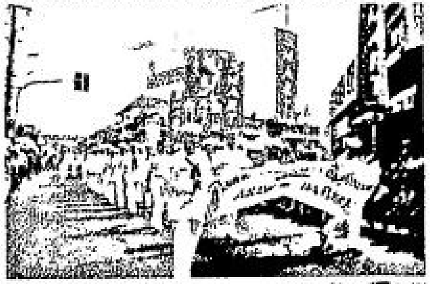
With the unmistakable scents of Pomelo and Durian mixing in the summer air, thousands of fiestagoers arrived from all over the country, and the world for that matter. And only the best fiesta and cellphone deals were enjoyed by SMART subscribers, as always.

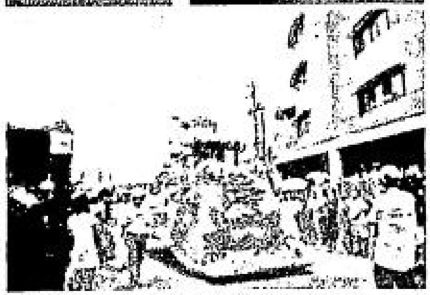
The much-awaited Piging sa Da'n food fair with its distinctive Davao delicacies gave fiestagoers their first taste of things to come, while local beauties vied for the Mutya ng Dabaw. Later on, the tribal parade snaked through Davao's historic routes, matching a flavor that is this city's quintessential nature—primal yet contemporary.

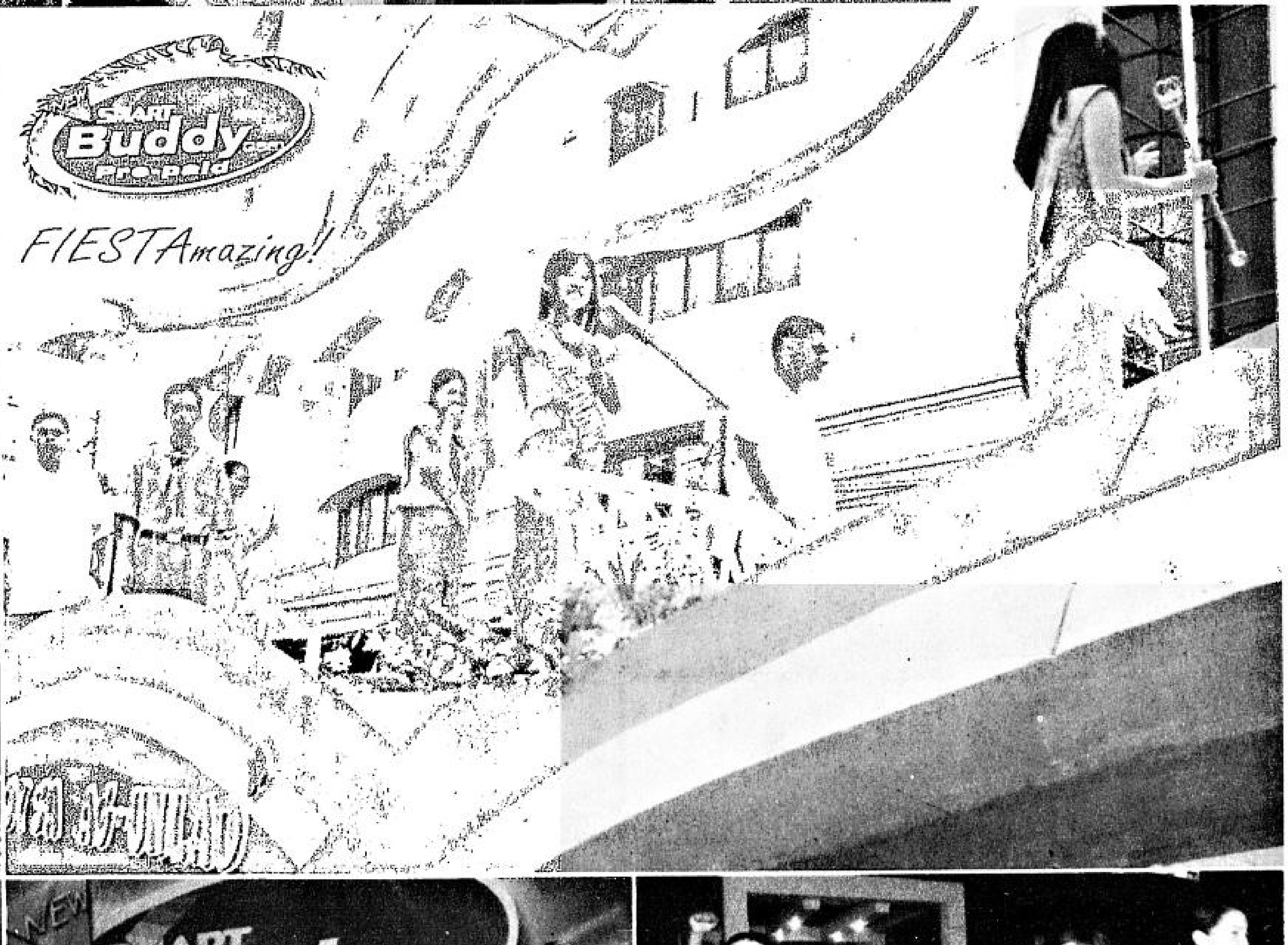
As night cooled the baking streets, lucky SMART subscribers were in for another round of nightlife delights with special deals including free entrance and complimentary drinks at the best Davao nightspots. The Venue, Matina Town Square, Auto Shop Resto and Bar among others all opened their doors and taps for SMART subscribers, most sporting the SMART Buddy 64k Super SIM—their passport to unmatched services and deals. The SMART Shockwave made its presence felt at the PTA Grounds Sports Arena from March 12 to 16 as well. Modern Philippine fiesta-ing is a growing phenomenon, catch it all only from SMART Buddy.

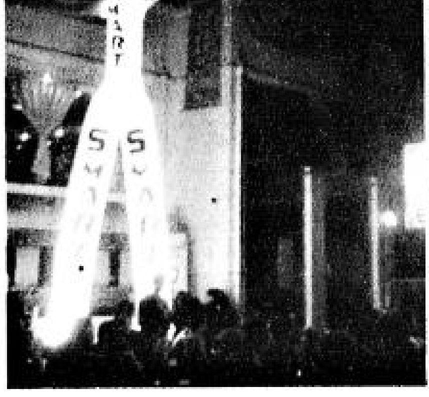












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Sunday LifeStyle

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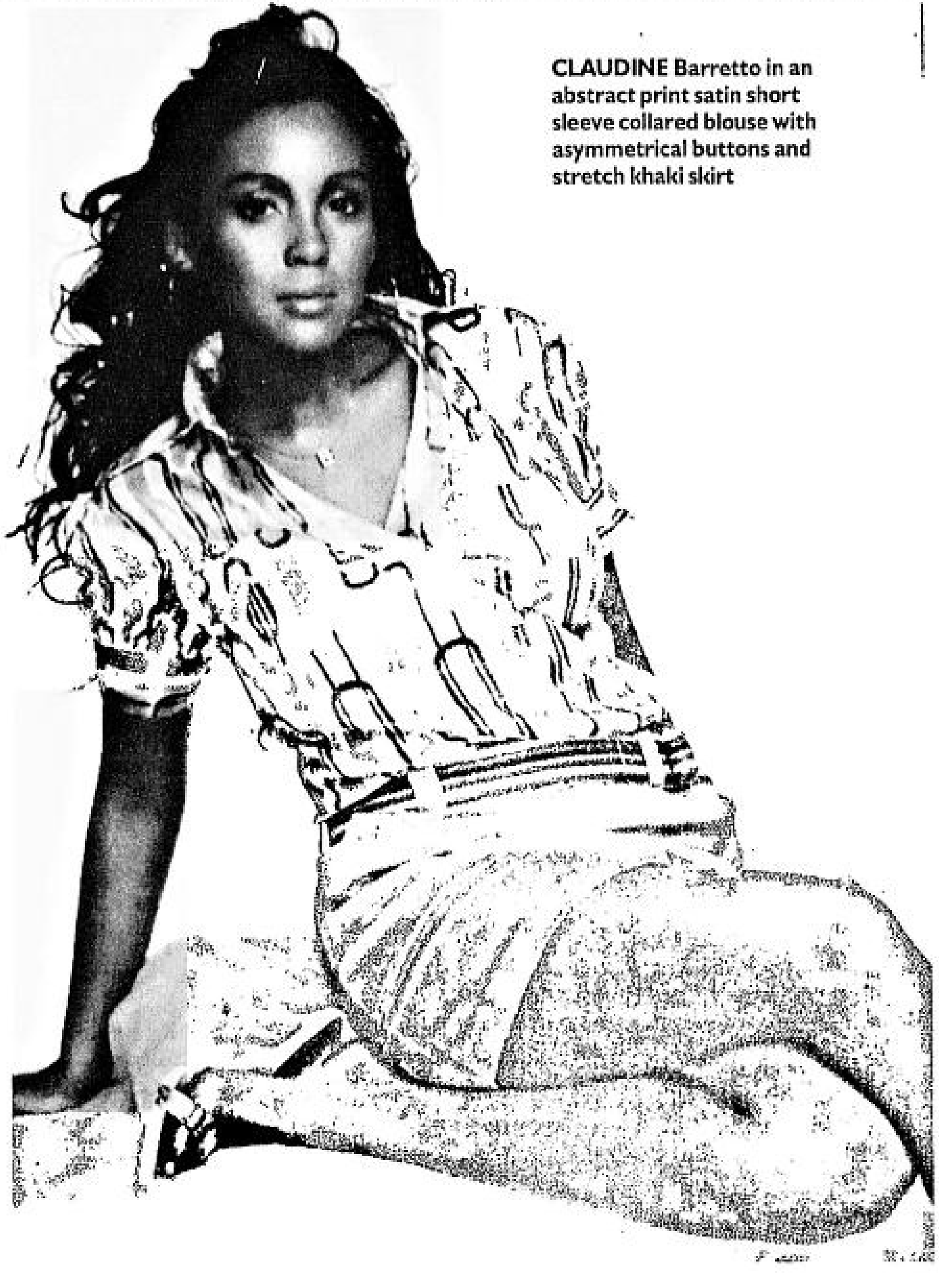

CLAUDINE Barretto in an abstract print satin short sleeve collared blouse with asymmetrical buttons and stretch khaki skirt

New summer look is bold and brave

FOLDED & Hung welcomes summer with its Ms. B campaign.

The campaign is represented by actress Claudine Barretto. She personifies the no-nonsense generation of young women below 30.

Claudine undergoes a style metamorphosis by wearing the femme-fatale pieces of F&H—from trendy nude asymmetrical tops to white hot hip pants.

The new look is a departure from Claudine's usual sweet-girl image. It remakes her as brave, mature, strong and confident.

The look is enhanced by diamonds and other jewelry.

"In my profession, one really has to be fashion-conscious; be aware of what's in and out," she said. "It's tiring to go from trend to trend so it's always wise to stick to the basics but spice it up with trendy accessories."

NEW/F3

COLLARED, puff-sleeved top with brown and aqua details in cotton fabric paired with striped black and cream stretch cotton skirt

SLINKY cool neck blouse with a corset overlap and striped waistband detail, paired with beige stretch hot pants

© T&CO 2004

TIFFANY & CO.

Tiffany Signature bracelet in eighteen karat white gold with diamonds.

Rustan's

MAKATI • SHANGRI-LA PLAZA

New! SMART Buddy Pre-paid downloads zed

sure hits

TOP 10 OPM

1	Alam Kong Di Ako, Okey Lang	Bayani Agbayani	TONE OKEYLANG
2	Otso-otso	Bayani Agbayani	TONE OTSO
3	Ms. Flawless	Angelica Jones	TONE FLAW
4	Ayoko Na Sa'yo	Mahal & Mura	TONE AYOKO
5	Forever's Not Enough	Sarah Geronimo	TONE 4EVERSNOT
6	Hold On	Side A	TONE HOLDON1
7	Kung Ako Na Lang Sana	Bituin Escalante	TONE KUNGAKO
8	Kailan Ka Darating	W. Cornejo & R. Alejandro	TONE KAILANKA
9	Stop Think	Aliya Parcs	TONE STOP
10	Kahit Na	Bridge	TONE KAHIT

TOP 10 POP

1	Maybe	Enrique Iglesias	TONE MAYBE
2	Toxic	Britney Spears	TONE TOXIC
3	Fallen	Sarah McLachlan	TONE FALLEN1
4	I Promise I Will	Stacie Orrico	TONE IPROMISE
5	I'll Be	Edwin McCain	TONE IBE
6	Addicted	Enrique Iglesias	TONE ADDICTED
7	Something's Missing	John Mayer	TONE SMISSING
8	Powerless	Nelly Furtado	TONE POWERLESS
9	Asereje	Las Ketchup	TONE ASEREJE
10	The Voice Within	Christina Aguilera	TONE VOICEW

TOP 10 ROCK

1	Happy	Rolling Stones	TONE HAPPY
2	Unwell	Matchbox 20	TONE UNWELL
3	Have It All Ver 2	Foo Fighters	TONE HAVIT2
4	This Love	Maroon 5	TONE THISLOVE
5	Iris	Goo Goo Dolls	TONE IRIS
6	Numb	Linkin Park	TONE NUMB
7	You Give Love A Bad Name	Bon Jovi	TONE BADNAME
8	The Young And The Hopeless	Good Charlotte	TONE YOUNGAND
9	Another One Bites The Dust	Queen	TONE ANOBITES
10	All Apologies	Nirvana	TONE ALLAPOLO

TOP 20 logos

1	LOGO JESUS8
2	LOGO TRIBAL4
3	LOGO PAMELAWAN
4	LOGO MERMAID
5	LOGO MYROSE
6	LOGO DRAGON9
7	LOGO SHEDEVIL
8	LOGO 4MYLAB
9	LOGO DEVIL3
10	LOGO SEXYG
11	LOGO LUVBEAR1
12	LOGO SUMMER1
13	LOGO SHYLOVE
14	LOGO JUSTHINK
15	LOGO SUNSMILE1
16	LOGO STARKA1
17	LOGO EYELOVE
18	LOGO MOTOR1
19	LOGO SEXYMA
20	LOGO TRIBAL2

TOP 10 HIPHOP

1	Where Is The Love	Black Eyed Peas	TONE WERISLUV
2	Hey Ya	Outkast	TONE HEYYA
3	Iz U	Nelly	TONE IZU
4	Lose Yourself	Eminem	TONE LOSEYOUR
5	Thoia Thoing	R. Kelly	TONE THOIA
6	Milkshake	Kelis	TONE MILKSHAKE
7	Shake Ya Tailfeather	P. Diddy & Nelly	TONE TAILF
8	P.I.M.P	50 Cent	TONE PIMP
9	Let's Get Retarded	Black Eyed Peas	TONE LETSGET
10	I Know What You Want	B. Rhymes & M. Carey	TONE IKNOWAT

TOP 10 picture messages

1	PIC WOWSEXY1
2	PIC CUTEAKO2
3	PIC 2DOLPHINS
4	PIC SUMRLUV
5	PIC ROSELOVE
6	PIC KISSME1
7	PIC KOK
8	PIC HONEY1
9	PIC LUVSUM
10	PIC BEARMOON

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288
Jesus ♥ U

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3 Save upon receiving logo, ring tone or picture message

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Note: In order for you to identify which musical work the ring tone in question is based on, we have, in addition to the song title, referred an artist who has made the song well known. The artist in question has not participated in the production of the ring tone.

SMART Simply Amazing

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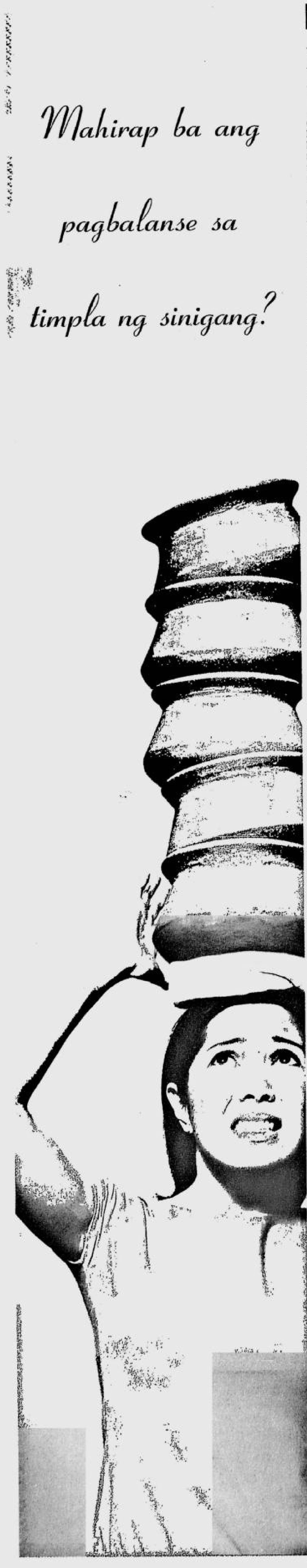

Kabisig ng Kalahi feeds malnourished children

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

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ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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Mother Ignacia shrine

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April 12 - May 20, 2004

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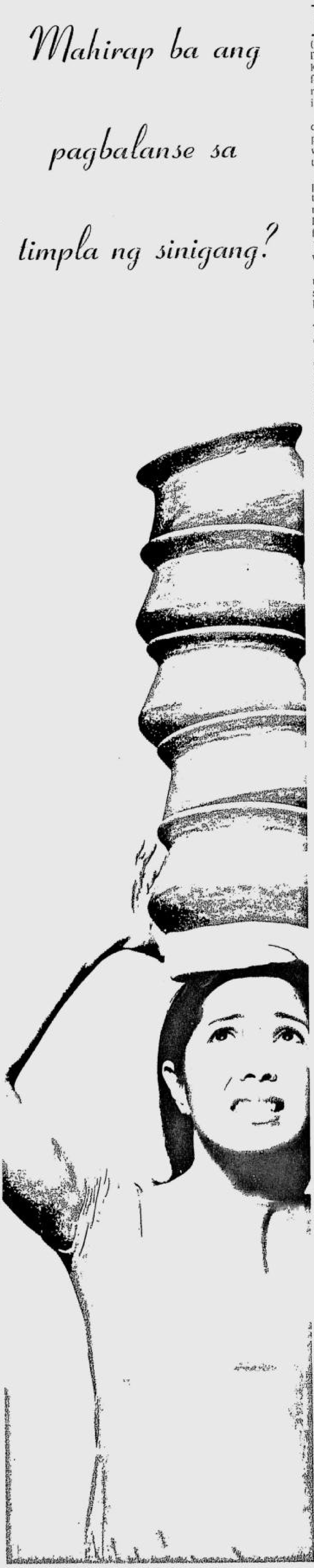

Mahirap ba ang pagbalanse sa timpla ng sinigang?

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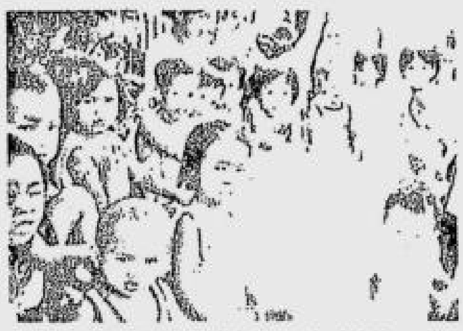

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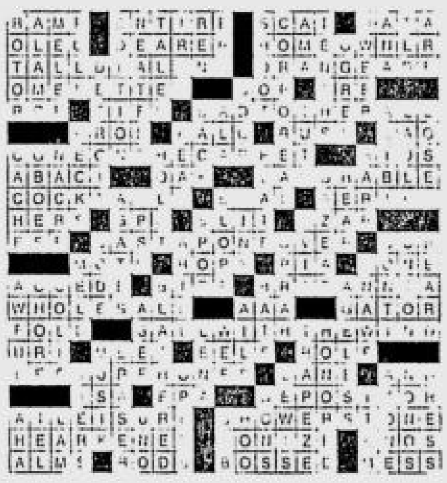

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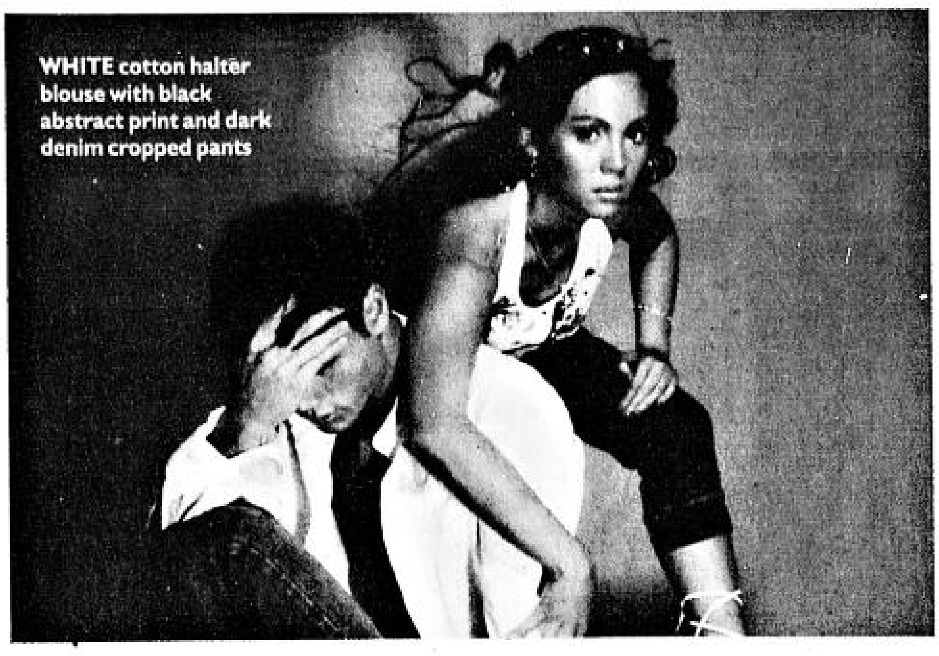

WHITE cotton halter blouse with black abstract print and dark denim cropped pants

New summer look is bold and brave

From page F1

"I find Folded & Hung very fashionable and versatile," the actress added. "It provides me with clothes from casual to chic. It can also match my moods."

Folded & Hung has stores at the Festival Mall, Alabang Town Center, Ayala Center Makati, Robinsons Place Ermita, Robinsons Galleria, Greenhills Shopping Center, SM Pampanga, Robinsons Metro East, and SM North Edsa. It will soon open in Sta. Lucia SM Fairview.

Develop your child's brain—now

IT'S all about helping develop your child's brain in the current issue of Baby Magazine, the country's first monthly magazine devoted to pregnancy, baby care and parenting.

Educator Marita Villafuerte talks about the tremendous capacity of the human brain. "As young 'ordinary' children use their brains to think, they begin to eventually perform extraordinary feats of mental, physical and even emotional miracles."

The magazine also features "How to Raise Your Kid's Intelligence Bar." The article points out that food, critical thinking, TV and computers can affect a child's intellectual development.

Child psychologist Teresa Gustilo-Villasor traces your child's intellectual development.

With school over and summer in, parents should start thinking of educational plans for the month of June. Baby Magazine gives its readers a run-down on the importance of this and how to save to be able to afford one.

Dermatologist Vicki Belo gives a comprehensive write-up on how to remain pretty while pregnant. She lists common skin problems that occur during pregnancy and what can be done to address these.

Columnist Dr. Becky Singson shares a recipe for healthy snacks.

Guest writer Dr. Liaa Cojuangco-Bautista writes about "Antibiotics and Your Baby."

The current issue also features Marylee Isabelle Chang-Ysmael, daughter of Louie and Cecille. Baby Magazine is available in all National Bookstores, SM Baby Company and Baby & Co. and baby boutiques. Call 7283655 to 56.

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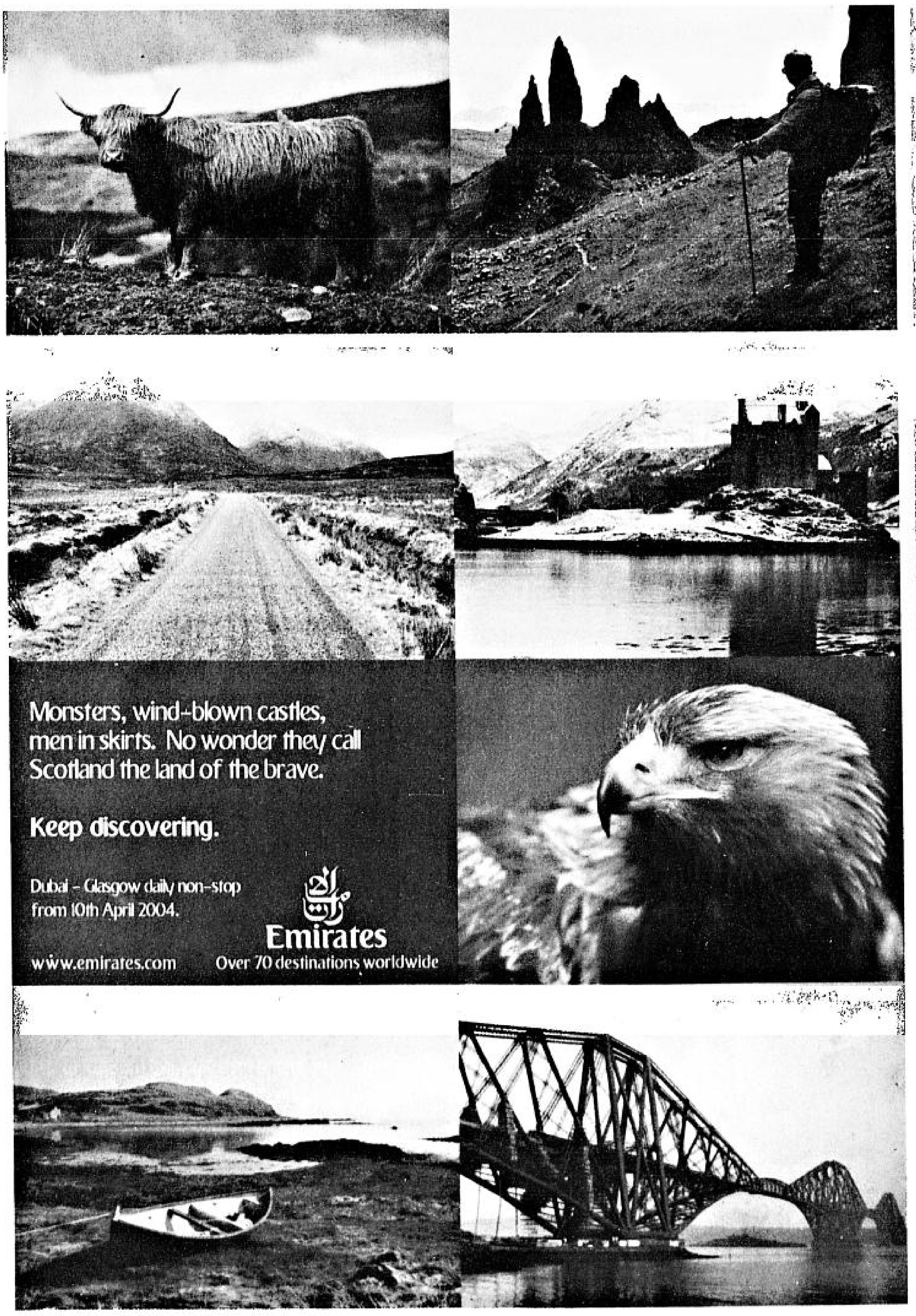
The package includes cake, invitations, name tags, party hats, tray liners, balloons, and loot bags for guests and a picture frame. The celebrator also gets a Dream Day ride-all-you-can ticket and one-year membership in the RDC Club. Food service can be arranged with any Dreamscape concessionaire.

Call 6362911 or 6317329.

Owned and operated by Robinsons Recreation Corp., Dreamscape is located at the fourth floor of Robinsons Galleria in Ortigas. It received the 2003 Family and Consumer's Choice Award "for outstanding party and entertainment services" from the Ideal Family and Parents Foundation and the National Consumers Affairs Foundation.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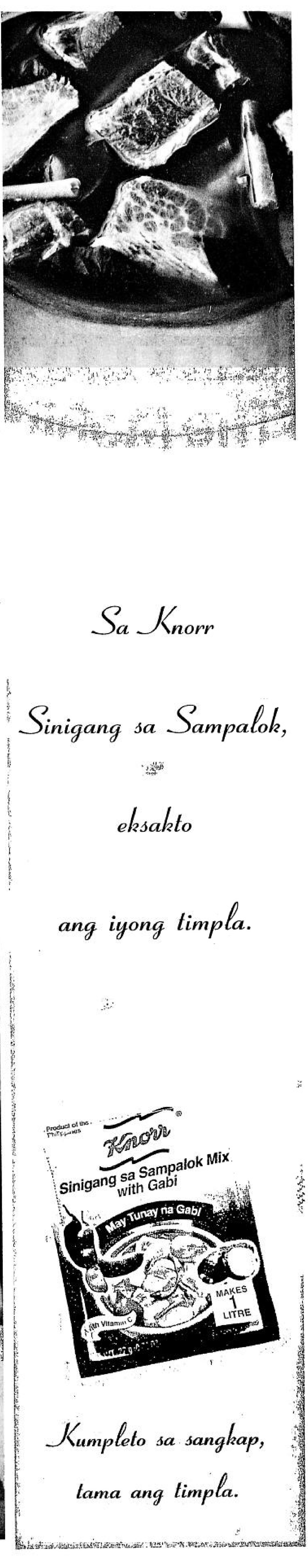
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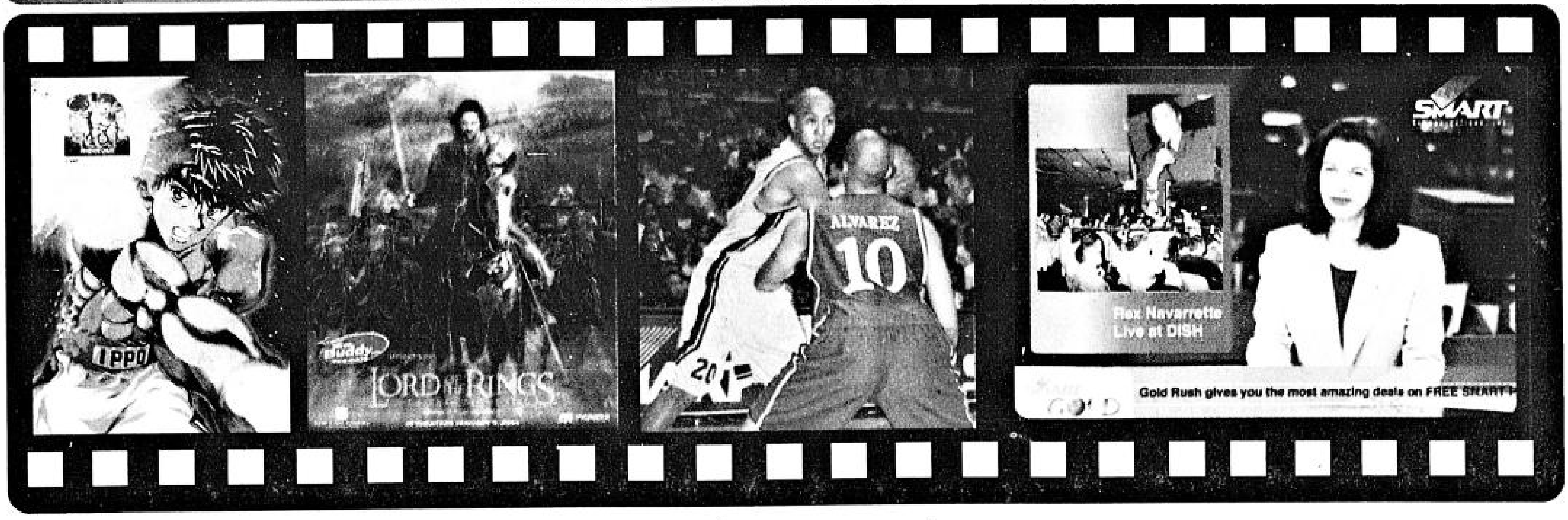

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THE WARMTH and feel of real narra and molave are in these chairs by Sabado's Handicrafts.

TRADITIONAL baskets in various shapes and sizes

Romancing the woodwork

Text by Gibbs Cadiz and Alex Vergara
Photos by Joan Bondoc

Baguio visitors in search of one-of-a-kind wood furniture and home accents will have their fill at PNKY Collection and Sabado's Handicrafts

PYNKY Gomez Magsino remembers the first time her name became associated with a hot new product.

In 1996, during the Chamber of Furniture Industries in the Philippines fair at SM Megamall, she exhibited an original design, a wooden magazine holder with braided rattan handles. She got so many orders. "It has become very much copied. The design itself has evolved into bags, plant holders and so on."

Her success validated Magsino's knack for ethnic-inspired wooden crafts and designs.

"My background is in anthropology," she says, "but my natural inclination is into antiques."

That inclination led her to open an antiques shop in Baguio in the early 1980s. The shop sourced its items from old houses all over the region. But in time, the sources dried up.

Magsino rebounded by reopening her shop as a woodworks store in 1996, which eventually became known as PNKY Collection. This time, she offered a mix of old and new, including reproductions of antique furniture, as well as lifestyle accessories and decorative pieces such as vases, fruit trays, candle holders, boxes and containers.

"While I'm always evolving in my designs, I make sure I keep the Cordillera touch. The design may be very modern, but the shape is Bontoc or Ifugao, or I try to incorporate some Itneg woodwork or carving," she explains.

Cordillera culture is often expressed in signature images on woodwork and pottery: ridges and lines, carvings of lizards, pigs and dogs, spoons and ladles, and the ubiquitous *bulol*.

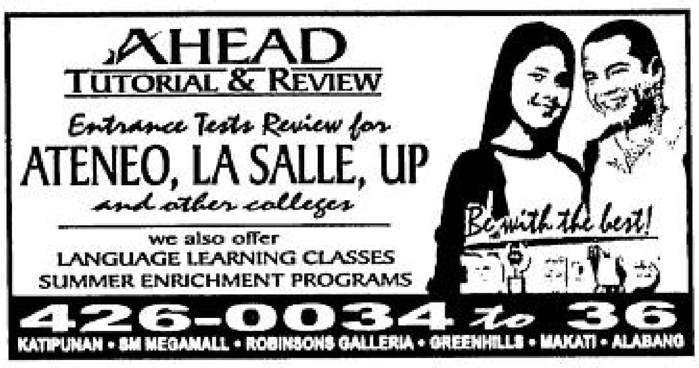
"The designs are very domesticated and ritualistic because that's the culture of the Cordillera tribes," she says.

Magsino often uses old wood from vintage Bontoc houses and structures to create her accent pieces, like a round ashtray with a glass-filled center, which is made of molave wood that came from original house posts.

"When I design, I look at what I can do with a piece of wood, rather than having a set design in mind and then looking for a piece of wood," she adds. "And since I often work with old wood, the design comes out of the material itself."

Magsino's creations are small masterpieces of elegance and multifunctional style. Her wood ashtray is also a

ROMANCING/ G2



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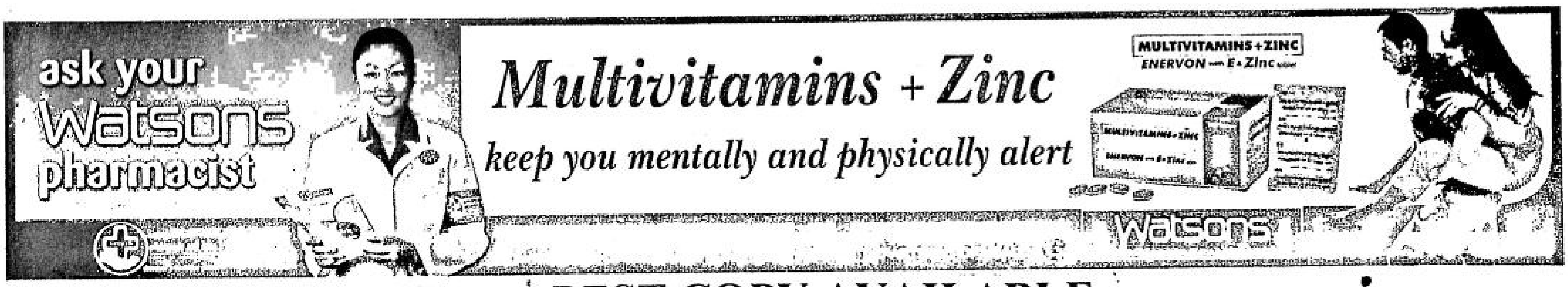

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FIT FOR A SEA PRINCESS. This day bed, refashioned from an original molave *cariton* (cart), is a favorite of Tessa Prieto Valdes, says Pynky Gomez Magsino.

Romancing the woodwork

TWO-TONE narra armoires, from PNKY Collection

THE SABADOS: Greg, Samurai and Ninj

From page G1

candle holder and a potpourri container. Vases double as containers. A *kamagong* stool can also be a stand or a pedestal.

"I'm now working on incorporating other materials such as *banig* and *buri* from Samar, stone from Ilocos (what they call Piedra Pinoy), and also glass, rope and rattan," she says.

She pays tribute to the immense talents of local woodcarvers and handicraft makers. And then there are the buyers, many of them local young urbanites going back to things natural, indigenous and handmade.

Magsino has two stores in Baguio (in Leonard Wood Road and Baguio Country Club) and a showroom at Home Zone, Glorietta 4.

"My merchandise remains 95-percent Filipino. It's really a conscious effort on my part to become known as a source of the best Cordillera- and Philippine-made products."

Magsino's success shows there will always be a demand for pieces made of solid wood.

Longevity

The same is true with Sabado's Handicrafts on Outlook Drive, Baguio City. The shop specializes in rustic and streamlined furniture pieces made from such materials as narra, *kamagong*, molave and pinewood. It also reuses wood from old houses and posts to make new furniture.

Those in search of ornate works should look somewhere else because owner and designer Greg Sabado and wife Ninj would rather stick to basic lines and let the wood do the talking. The shop also carries tribal hats, baskets and wooden antiques, but not of the *santo* variety.

Sabado and his staff scour the hinterlands of the North in search of wooden rice gods (*bulol*) and other tribal images, some dating as far back as the late 19th century.

"In the absence of carbon dating," says Sabado, "it's quite difficult to ascertain the exact year an image was made. Most of the time, tribal people are [themselves] unaware of how old their images are. They usually sell them to send their kids to school."

Depending, too, on their condition, some tribal antiques could fetch as much as P100,000. Sabado Handicrafts also offers repros for customers on a shoestring budget. One can buy a replica of a preferred *bulol* for as low as P2,000 to P3,000.

"We also do a limited number of made-to-order furniture pieces as long as they're within our area of expertise," says Sabado.

Over the years, Sabado Handicrafts has steadily grown to cater to both local and foreign tourists. These days, it also deals with direct foreign buyers from Japan, the United States and the European Union.

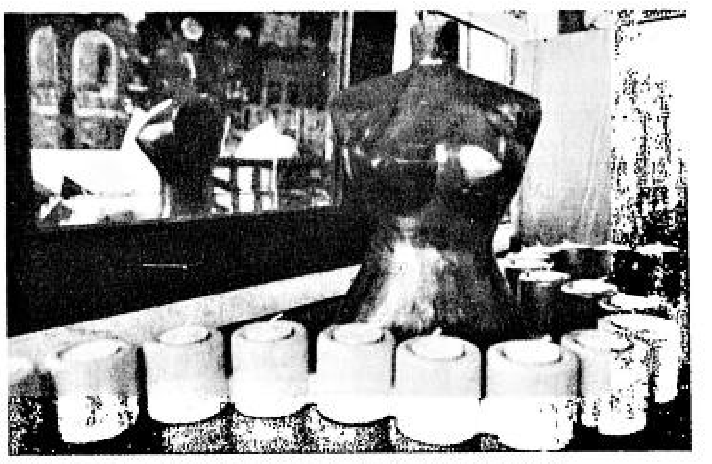
"Anything that's real will always be in demand," says Sabado. "Nothing can ever match the feel of real wood."

PNKY Collection is at 4 Brent Road corner Leonard Wood Road, Baguio City (tels. 074-4445418, 0917-7945418). Sabado's Handicrafts is at 16 Outlook Drive, Baguio City (tels. 074-4447102, 0918-2393456).

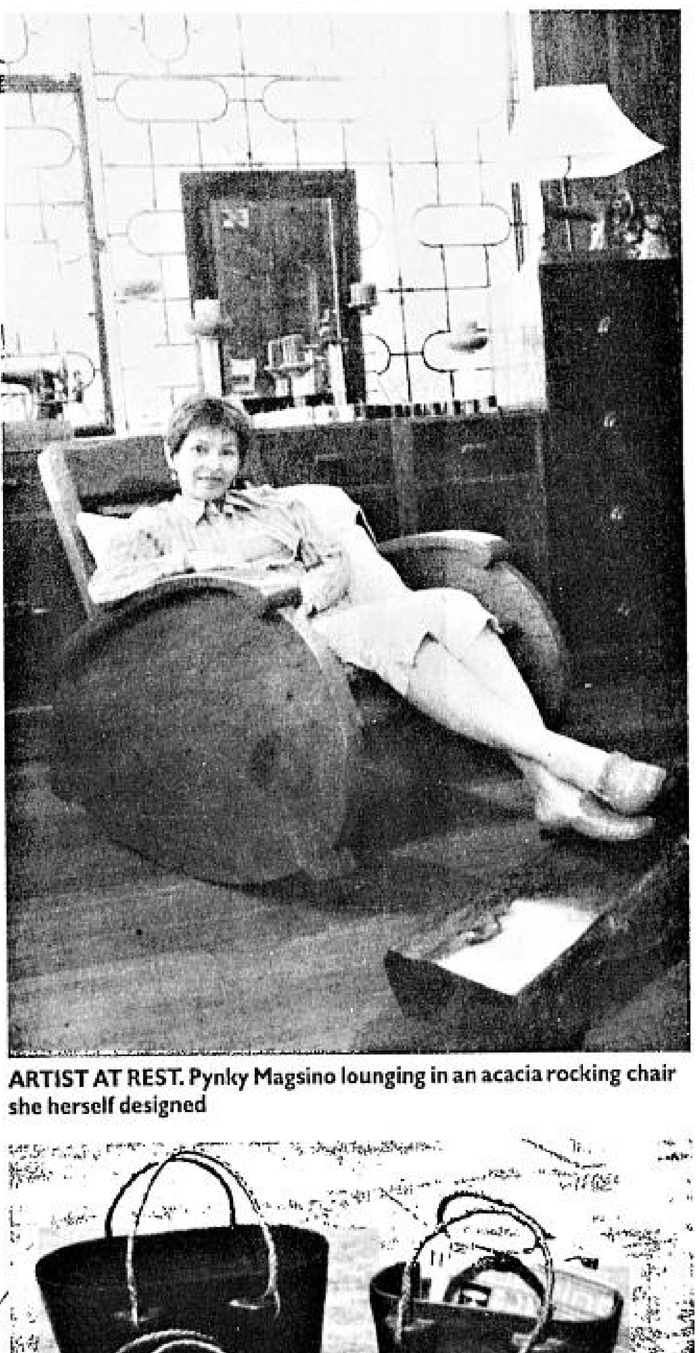
Lifestyle Goes to Baguio was sponsored by SM City Baguio.

E-mail the authors at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph and avergara@inquirer.com.ph

WOODEN pedestals and chairs by Sabado's Handicrafts



ACACIA caterpillar candleholder with interlocking units



ARTIST AT REST. Pynky Magsino lounging in an acacia rocking chair she herself designed

PNKY'S much-copied acacia magazine holder in various sizes

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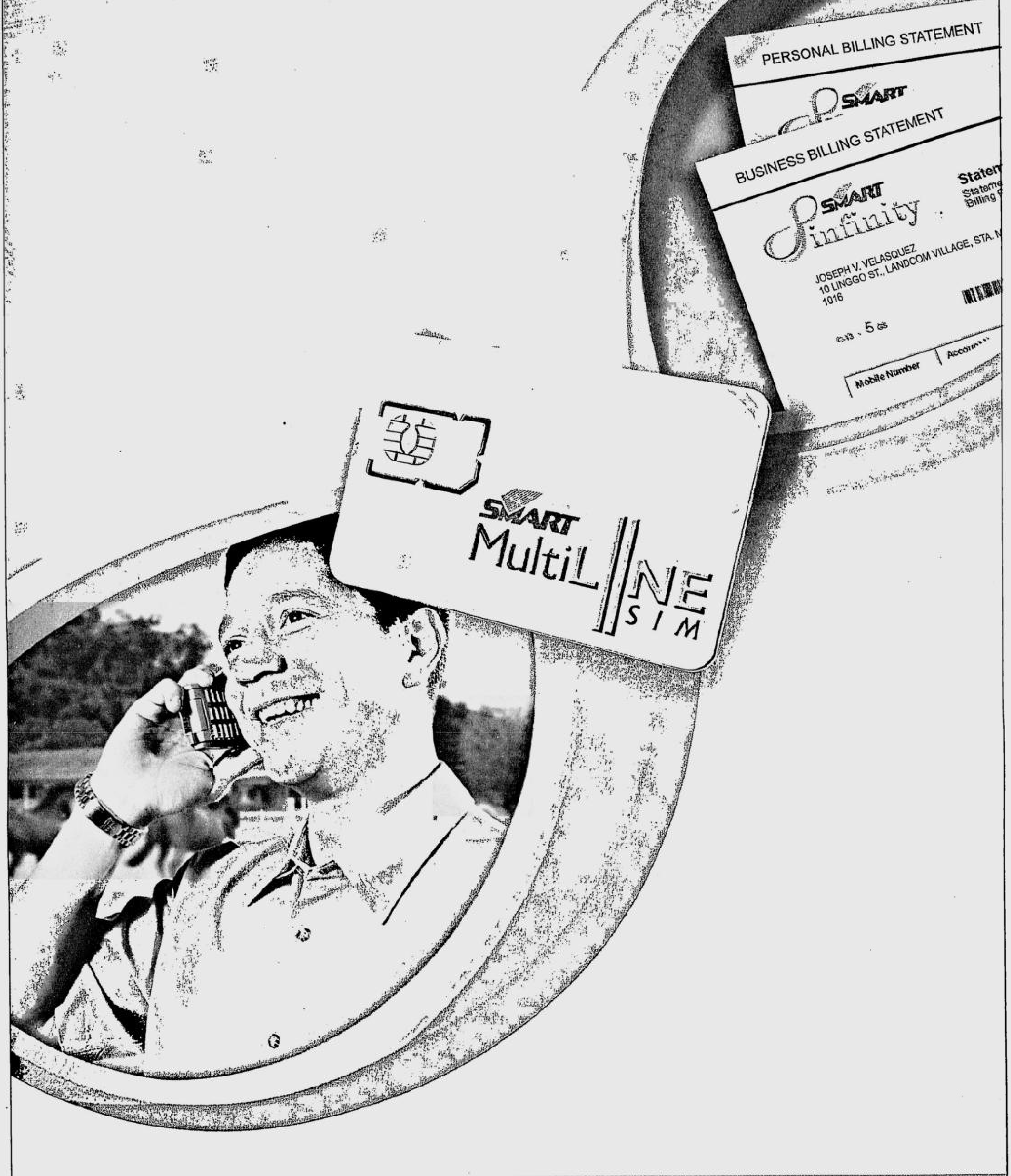
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Flower business coming up roses for Baguio

It is hard not to feel serenity and calmness when you are surrounded by colorful and scented blooms

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Joan Bondoc

IF you're in Baguio and want to visit something other than the usual attractions, you may want to swing by the Bahong Rose Garden and King Louis Farm in Benguet.

Amid colorful and beautiful flowers, it will be hard not to experience the most welcome feelings of serenity and calmness.

Bahong was declared the Rose Capital of the Philippines during the term of President Fidel Ramos. Run and managed by a multipurpose cooperative of Barangay Bahong, the garden supplies much of the roses, as well as other cutflowers, in the local market.

According to Wilfred Padio, former chair of the cooperative, the garden was put up after the destructive 1990 earthquake to provide locals a source of livelihood. Coop members have their own flower nurseries and greenhouses.

Bahong has a total land area of 410 hectares of generally sloping and hilly terrain with some steep and rocky portions. Local officials estimate that there are about 400 private landowners cultivating some 80 hectares solely devoted to rose gardens that produce some 100,000 dozens of roses per hectare per year.

Aside from supplying flower markets with roses and mums, the town has been providing 90 percent of materials for the Panagbenga or Baguio Flower Festival since 1996.

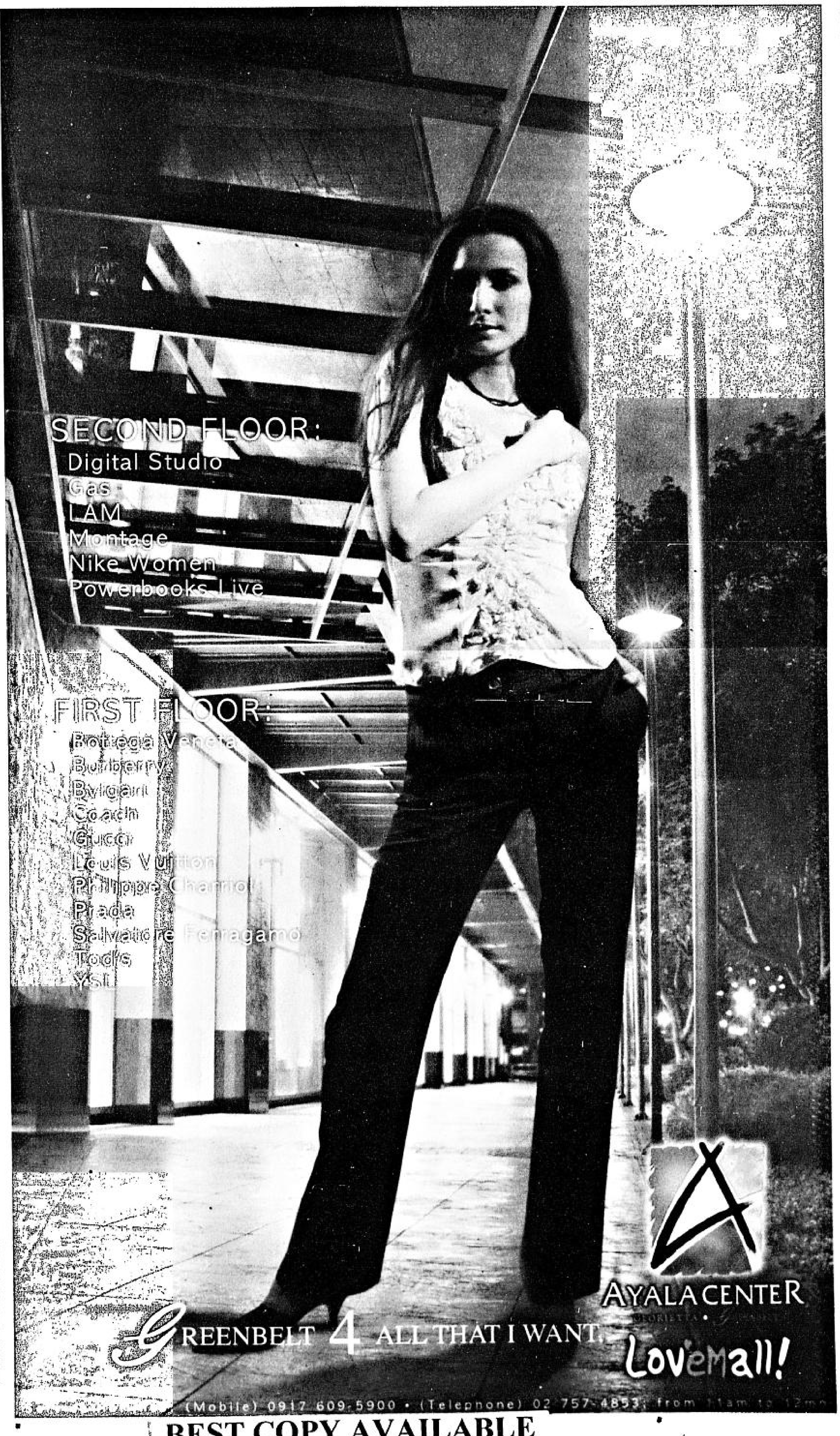
Roses are shipped to Dimasalang in Manila in three Elf trucks every day. Each barangay has its own fleet of delivery trucks.

Bahong has been producing roses in various colors—red, white, yellow and even mixed hues.

Padio says the rose is a very stable crop, producing blooms weekly, if not daily, in favorable weather. On peak seasons, the town can send out up to 10 tons of freshly cut tight buds of red and white roses to Metro Manila. The buds are wrapped in newspaper and plastic then packed in styrofoam boxes. Some even find their way to hotels and restaurants, among others, outside the Philippines.

FLOWER/ H3

EFREN Chatto general manager of King Louis Farm



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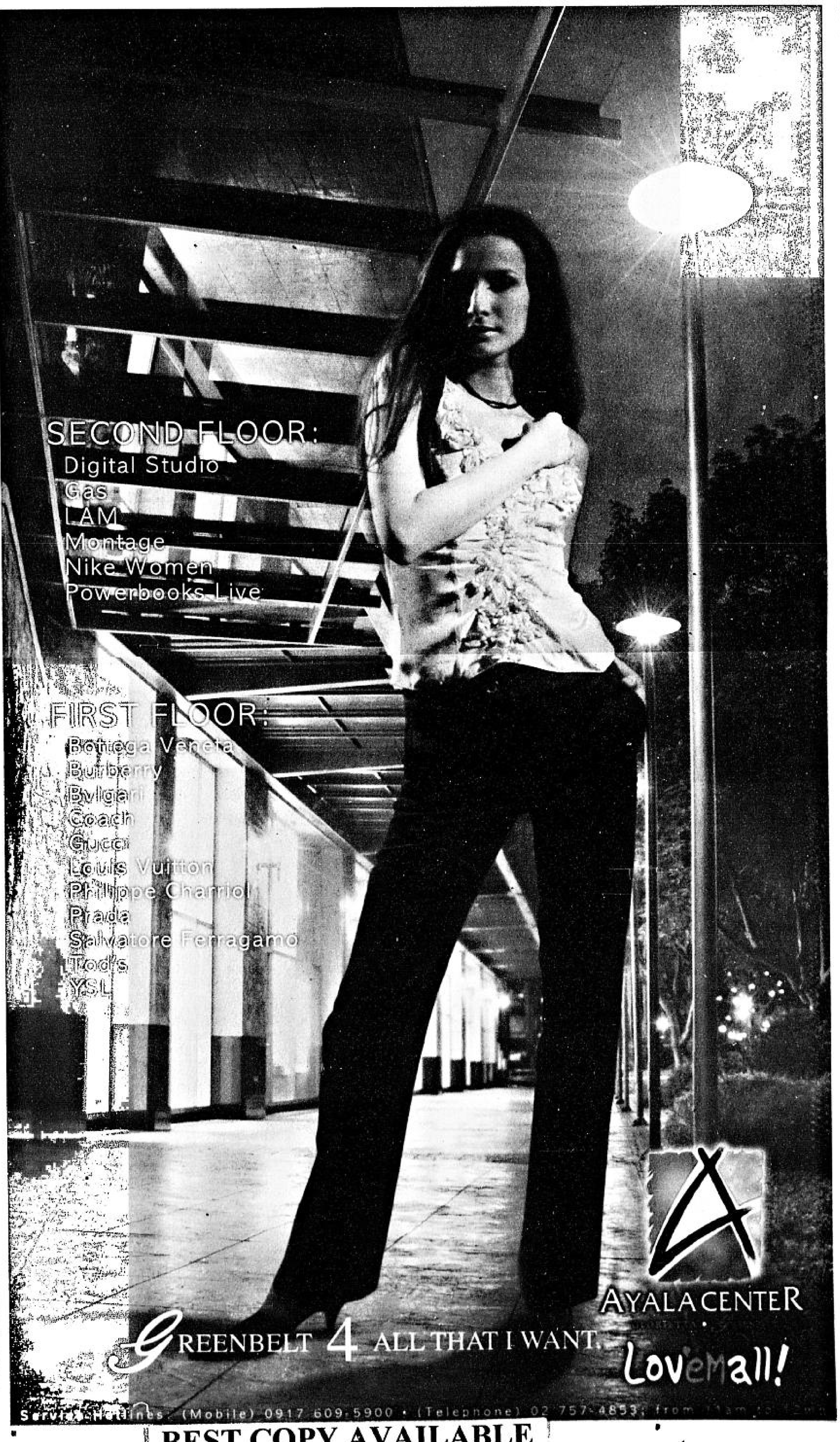

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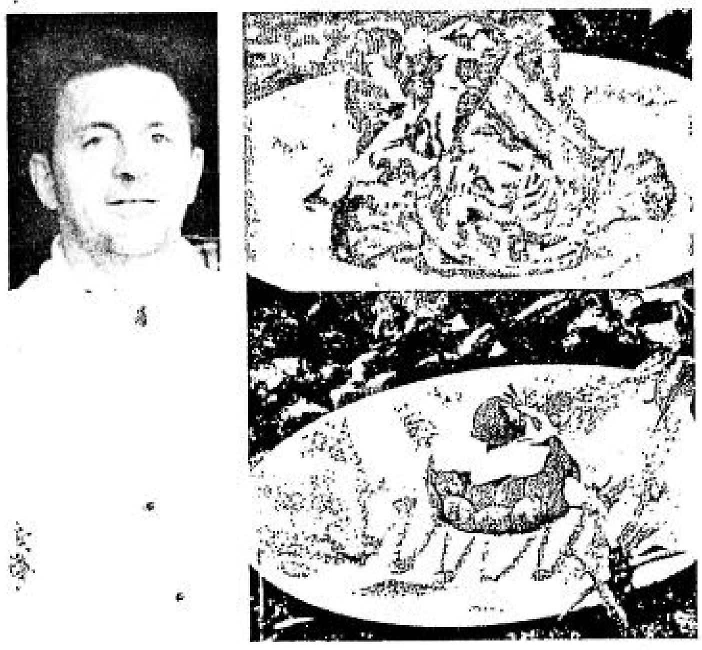
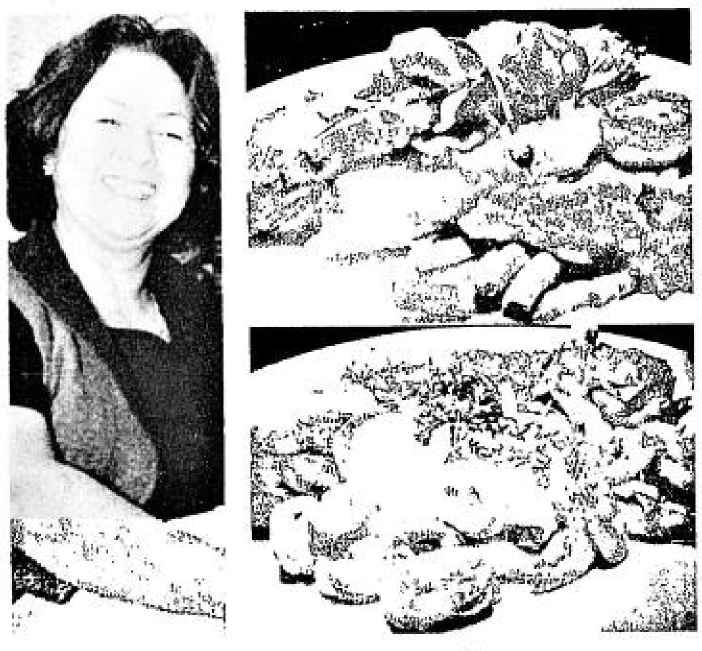
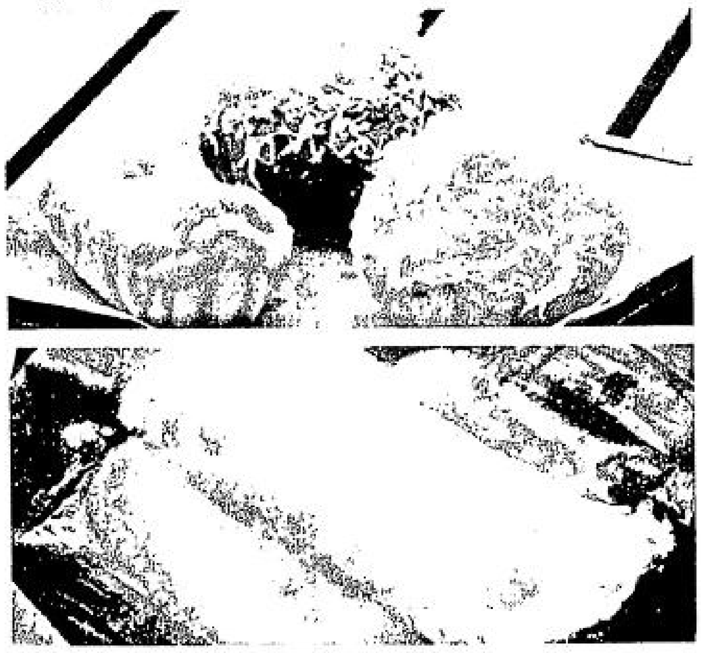
KITCHEN FAMILY. The Rimandos have been serving *lutong bahay* dishes since 1985 to Baguio residents and tourists. Bestsellers include the seafood platter and bulalo soup.



ROYAL TREATMENT. With chef Billy King running the show at the Manor Hotel, you are assured of something fit for royalty, such as the Sea Trout with Vegetable Vinaigrette and Linguini Pomodoro, and Chocolate Decadence with Strawberries in Mango Sauce.



MARIO'S Mitos Benitez remains focused on giving customers a wholesome dining experience. Pistachio-crusted chicken with bacon-wrapped prawn and Surtido de Tapas are the house specialties.



SISTERS Marie and Regielyn of Cottage Gi's serve freshly baked ube ensaymada with generous toppings of cottage cheese, *suman sa lihiya* with fresh coconut sauce, apple pie and strawberry shortcake.

THE COFFEE EXPERIENCE

SIP your coffee and bite into your favorite blueberry cheesecake at The Coffee Experience on the third floor of SM Baguio. Must-haves are the Kape Eh (dark coffee blended with special cocoa powder from Batangas), Coffee Jelly, Rocky Road Freeze and Oreo Freeze.

Baguio is also City of Dine

Text By Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Joan Bondoc

THE CITY of Pines is also the city of some of the trendiest and most talked about restaurants. This image was further strengthened with the opening recently of SM City Baguio. With various outlets offering different kinds of food, the mall has become a great place to head for if you're hungry, but don't know what you really want.

Most of Baguio's eating places, both old and new, are owned, managed or franchised by Baguio residents themselves. Here are some places you can go to in Baguio for filling, pleasant and memorable meals.

The Manor

Camp John Hay Manor is said to be the only place in Baguio that serves melt-in-your-mouth *foie gras* and savory soufflé. Not surprising since The Manor restaurant, including the delicatessen, is run by the celebrated Billy King of Le Chef. The place serves the finest French and fusion cuisine as whipped up by King and his team.

The menu, which changes regularly, is always a symphony of fresh produce, excellent flavors and clever inventions—Medallions of Pork, Rack of Lamb, Sautéed Black Angus Tenderloin, Smoked Salmon and Breaded Chicken Scallop.

With King running the show, you are assured of something fit for royalty. Not to be missed are his tempura-inspired Goat Cheese and Veggies drizzled with Sesame Seeds and Sea Trout with Vegetable Vinaigrette topped with Yogurt and accompanied with Linguini Pomodoro.

This being Baguio, try the strawberry juice and, for dessert, Chocolate Decadence with Strawberries in Mango Sauce.

For a nightcap, chef King suggests the Piano Bar with its fireplace and laid-back music for a romantic ambience.

Cottage Gi's

This modest bakeshop-cum-café is a dream come true for people with a sweet tooth. Located at the 3rd floor of SM City Baguio, Cottage Gi's (Cakes by Marie) offers lip-smacking cakes and pastries. Created by sisters Marie and Regielyn Luga, Cottage Gi's serves freshly baked *ube ensaymada* with generous toppings of cottage cheese; *suman sa lihiya* with fresh coconut sauce, apple pie and strawberry shortcake.

Cottage Gi's offers the talented sisters' award-winning recipes: Angelic Mango Cake, which won the RFM-White King Baking contest in 1983, and Chicken Corn Pizza, which was grand prize winner at the Shakey's Great Pizza Challenge in 1982.

The sisters thank their mom, Lita Teel, for encouraging them to bake; and grandmother Trining, who passed on age-old recipes for native desserts like *suman sa lihiya*.

Cottage Gi's also serves fresh strawberry sundaes, fruit shakes, Benguet coffee and other flavored coolers.

Koffia Café

A good cup of coffee and a magnificent view of the Pines City make a visit to Koffia Café a most rewarding exercise. At the third floor of SM Baguio, it serves Double Espresso Macchiato, Flavored Latte, Café Au Lait, among others. Koffia claims to have the best espresso in town.

The coffee shop with a view is the brainchild of accountant Sasi Vasquez, New York-born but raised in Baguio.

Vasquez set up the first Koffia at the ground floor of Porta Vaga Mall on Session Road three years ago. The SM Baguio outlet is her second.

Koffia is a cozy yet modern café with a full-range of coffee, cream and tea infusions and brewed coffee. It uses Benguet coffee, among others. Vasquez is also proud of her cakes and pastries, the results, she says, of numerous tests and experimentation. Made the traditional way without extenders, she says favorite buys are Black Forest, Blueberry Cheesecake, Chocolate Cake, Poppy Seed Muffins and Banana Bread.

Pretoria

Pretoria is more into grilled and sizzling dishes. Engineer Rafael Ding and his partners offer a wide variety of items for families and *barkadas* to enjoy.

Manager Leander de la Torre says among Pretoria's best-sellers are appetizers like *kilawing tanguigue*, sizzling *sisig*, *sisig* tofu, tuna belly and frog legs in garlic.

From the grill, customers can get pork barbecue, fish fillet, *liempo*, *pusit*, *hito*, *bangus* and spare ribs. Steaks include tenderloin, T-bone and pork. Top favorites are porterhouse and *bulalo* steaks.

Pretoria has an eat-all-you-can lunch and dinner buffets set up daily. Price per person is P120.

The outlet at the third floor of SM Baguio is the second Pretoria. The first is on Abanao Street. A third outlet may be opened in Cebu or Manila.

Woodnymph

The place has both great looks and good food. Woodnymph, the only Korean restaurant at SM Baguio, serves spicy cuisine in an elegant setting—brick-walled hall with solid wood and large mirrors.

Enjoy Galbi Chim (Korean beef stew), Tangsuyok (sweet and sour pork-fish), BBQ Dosirak (chicken, pork barbecue) and Haemul Maeuntang (seafood soup like shabu-shabu).

Owners Salvador Austria and Korean partner Joun Ku Ja opened the restaurant to introduce Korean dishes to Baguio residents. The restaurant first opened at the Military Cut Off. About 60 percent of their customers are Koreans.

Rimando Eatery

Located "over the *bakod*" of the Baguio Country Club, the atmosphere is convivial at this modest place. Expatriates, politicians and ordinary residents can be seen enjoying hot *bulalo* soup or *pinapaitan*.

Foodies flock to this hole-in-the wall to feast on Ilocano-Ilonggo *lutong bahay* specialties—*kaldereta*, *adobo*, *sinanpalukan*, *dinuguan*, *igado*, *bagnet*, *lechon kawali*, *afritada* and *inihaw*.

Joseph Rimando, a dentist, handles the restaurant's daily operations while his mom, Helen, is up as early as 4 a.m. to do all the cooking.

Mario's

PRETORIA'S Sizzling Bulalo Steak

A trip to the Pine City isn't complete without visiting Mario's Restaurant, an institution for more than 30 years.

Owned and managed by Mitos Benitez, the restaurant remains focused on giving customers a wholesome dining experience—from ambience, to fresh and good quality food, good music and efficient and attentive service.

Its Caesar's Salad, prepared right beside your table, is an experience people want to repeat every time they visit the restaurant. The open kitchen dishes out typical Spanish food, which is served generously—Surtido de Tapas (platter of spicy chicken wings, drunken shrimps, fried squid rings and Spanish *chorizo*), Agachonas Adobadas (wild island snipes a la adobo), Chicken and Prawn (pistachio-crusted chicken with herbs in mustard cream sauce and bacon-wrapped prawn), *Lengua con Setas* (ox tongue in delicate wine sauce with mushroom and olives) and *Paella Valenciana*.

For a memorable finale, don't forget the mango jubilee and Mario's famous crepes.

Eve's Garden

Eve's Garden has chosen a most suitable setting for its healthy food concept.

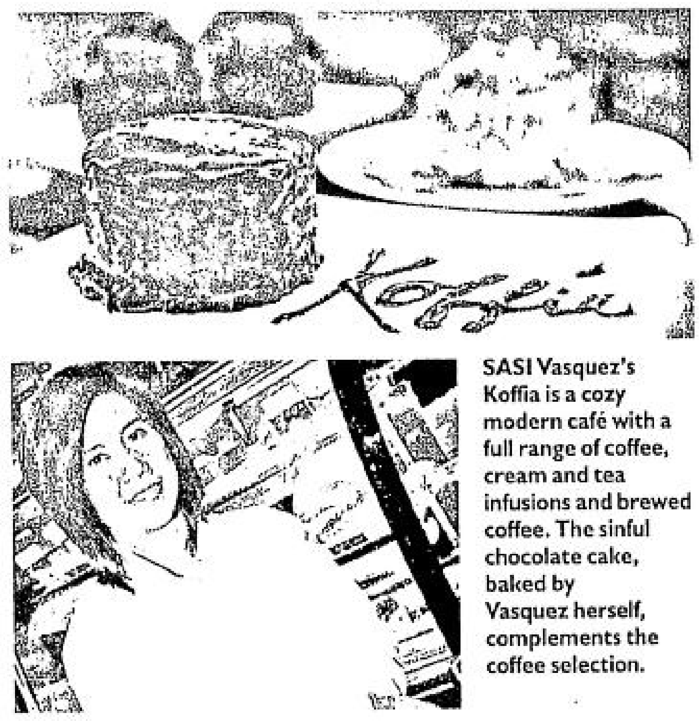
Located at the Upper Lantang Road, Trinidad, Benguet, the restaurant is the equivalent of Tagaytay City's Sonia's Garden. Evelyn Acosta's food haven offers only the best natural ingredients available. It serves 13 kinds of organically grown lettuce and a choice of seafood and meat from free-range or organically raised cattle and poultry.

The set menu includes vegetable-fruit juice, a nourishing soup seasoned with homegrown herbs, salad platter of fresh, organically grown, chemical-free lettuce with a sprinkling of roasted sesame seeds, cashew nuts, and raisins; and a choice of chicken, beef or seafood.

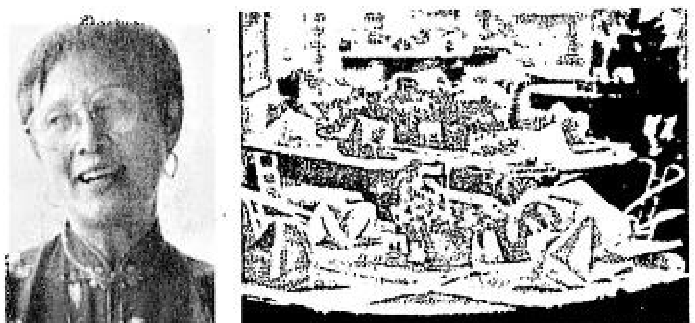
A special homemade dessert like carrot cake, and freshly brewed coffee from indigenous coffee beans or mountain tea, round off the healthy meal.

Diners should make reservations to Eve's Garden at least one or two days ahead of schedule.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph



SASI Vasquez's Koffia is a cozy modern café with a full range of coffee, cream and tea infusions and brewed coffee. The sinful chocolate cake, baked by Vasquez herself, complements the coffee selection.



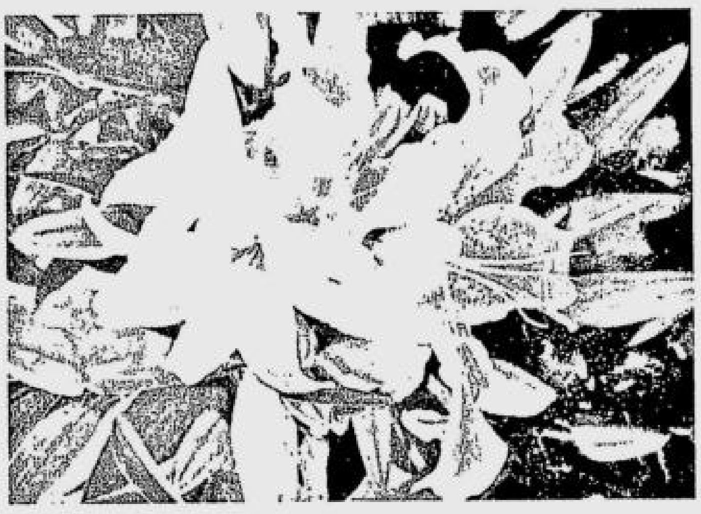
BAGUIO residents are eating healthier, thanks in part to Evelyn Acosta's Eve's Garden. It serves seafood, 13 kinds of organically grown lettuce and meat from organically raised cattle and poultry.

WOODNYMPH business partners Salvador Austria and Korean partner Joun Ku Ja offer authentic Korean dishes, such as this seafood soup (Haemul Maeuntang).

PRETTY SIGHT. King Louis Farm produces several varieties of gerberas, differentiated by their color.

BAHONG Garden's chrysanthemums

Flower business coming up roses for Baguio



LILIUMS are sold as cutflowers or potted plants at King Louis Farm

From page H1

In the peak blooming months, February to June, a dozen roses costs from P50 to P120. One big styrofoam box holds 50 dozens of extra large roses or 60 to 100 dozens of short to long-stemmed roses.

'Royal' farm

The King Louis Puyat Farm of the King Louis Inc. is arguably the biggest cutflower producer in the country today. It supplies 60 percent of flower shops in Manila and other parts of the country.

Efren Chatto, general manager, says the farm started in 1983 with only 4,000 square meters of space. It has since grown to six hectares, producing chrysanthemums, gerberas, roses, liliums, poinsettias, carnations, stargazers, zinnias, gladioli and misty rose, among others. King Louis now has five flower farms in different parts of Benguet province.

Better known as King Louis Farm, it has been elevated to the Hall of Fame of the annual Panagbenga Flower Festival.

King Louis also produces special blooms for certain occasions on a limited basis. For Valentine's Day, for instance, it has few dozen tulips for those who want to present their loved ones other than the traditional roses.

Chatto says, "Tulips are still hard to produce even in this cool climate of Baguio. It's not feasible to have regular production."

Besides, because of price, tulips will not really be a topseller on ordinary days. A stem costs P45-60. "Tulips are grown in a cooler place preferably at 9° Celsius. Even Baguio's temperature is often higher than that."

To produce tulips for Valentine's Day, Chatto says they get the planting bulbs from Holland and store them in a special refrigerator. "Once they grown roots of about four to five inches, we put them out on the fields because they can now survive the Baguio temperature. We cover the entire area with fish nets to filter the sunlight."

King Louis tulips, on Valentine's Day, can sell from P600 to 1,000 per dozen.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

WILFREDO Radio and Jacinta Segunda, officials of the Bahong Garden Multi-Purpose Cooperative

QUADRIPLEGIC FINISHES MARATHON

The impossible happened when Mila gave birth to her child. She suffered from Amniotic Fluid Embolism, a rare syndrome that left her unable to move or speak.

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All these Mila achieved. Thanks to her husband who, like her, believed that impossible is nothing.

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Mat exercises and more

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Joan Bondoc

IT'S easy to see why placemats remain one of Easter Weaving Room's most salable items among foreigners, particularly Americans. An Episcopalian missionary from the United States established the company in a log room in Baguio (thus its name) 90 years ago.

Today, Easter Weaving Room is a thriving manufacturer, retailer and exporter of indigenous textiles—from the ubiquitous Benguet weave to modernized versions of the colorful Ikat—and finished products such as vests, jackets, coats, shawls, hats, church vestments, curtains, wall hangings, napkins, table runners and, yes, placemats.

On top of its 50 or so regular weavers, Easter Weaving taps the services of an equal number of weavers from all over the city. Its factory, located below its showroom on Easter Road, houses a dozen or so manual looms and other tools of the trade.

"Since our founder was an American," says Virginia Doligas, general manager of Easter Weaving Room, "the first things she designed were items for the table using indigenous weaves."

Americans, she adds, are particular about proper table setting every time they have meals. Thus, over the years, Easter Weaving

Easter Weaving Room earned close to P10 million last year, making it one of the top manufacturers, retailers and exporters of indigenous textiles in the region

MAT/14

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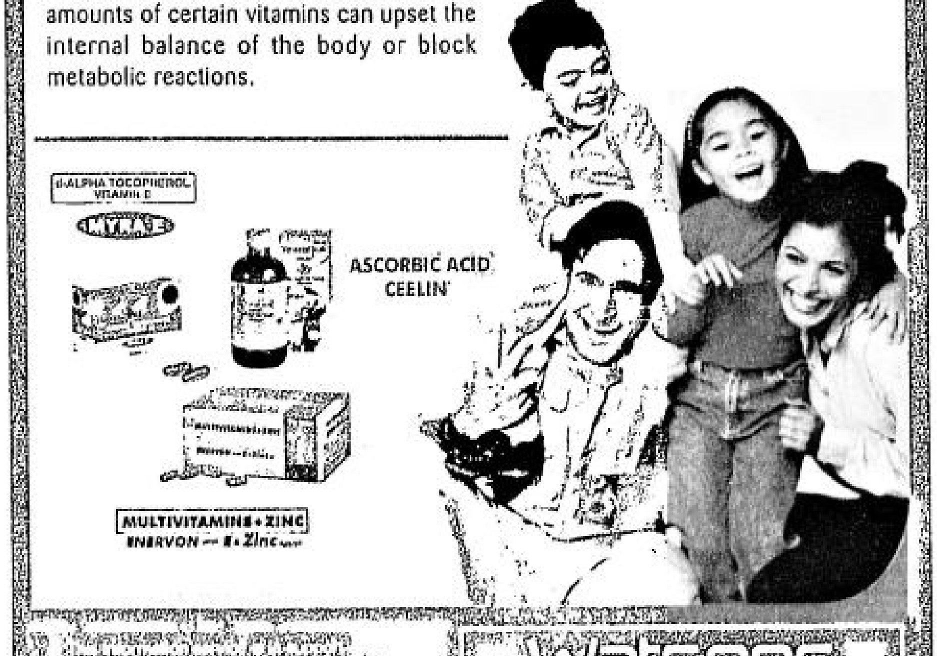

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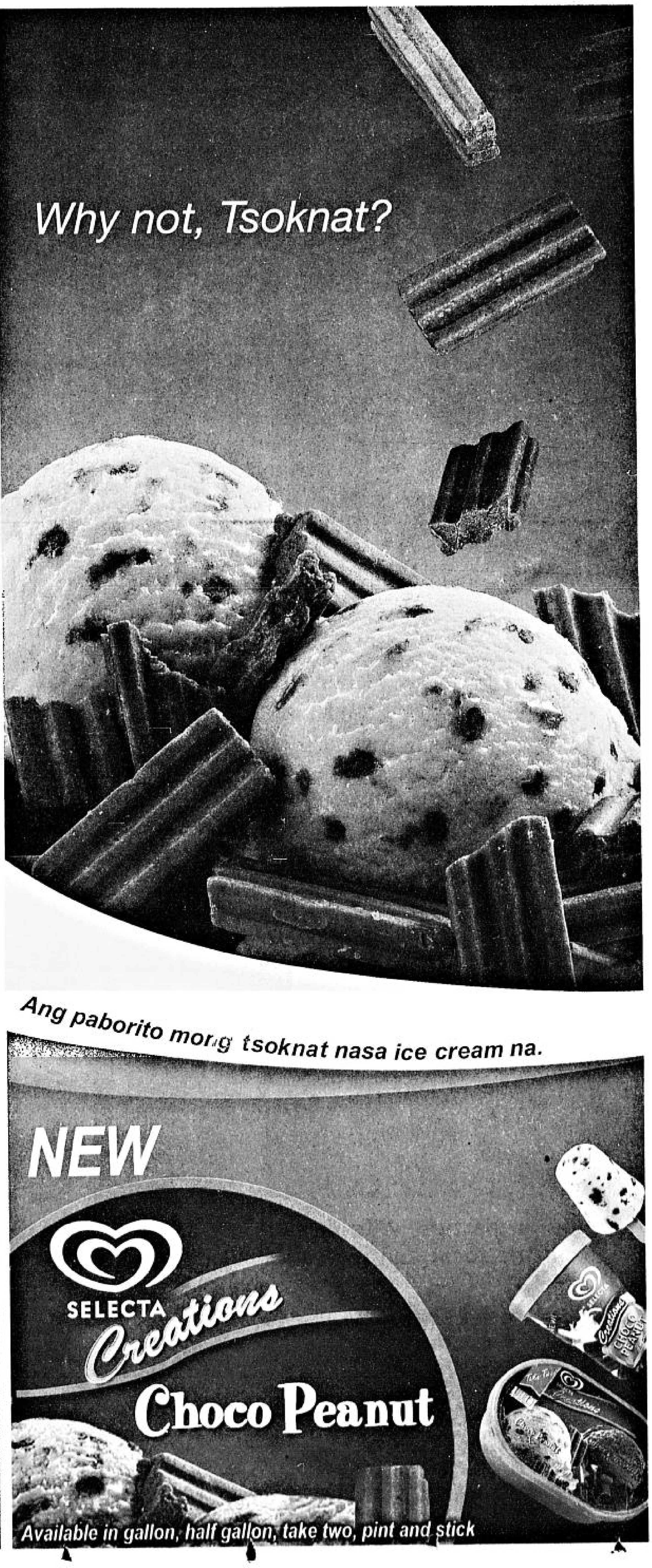
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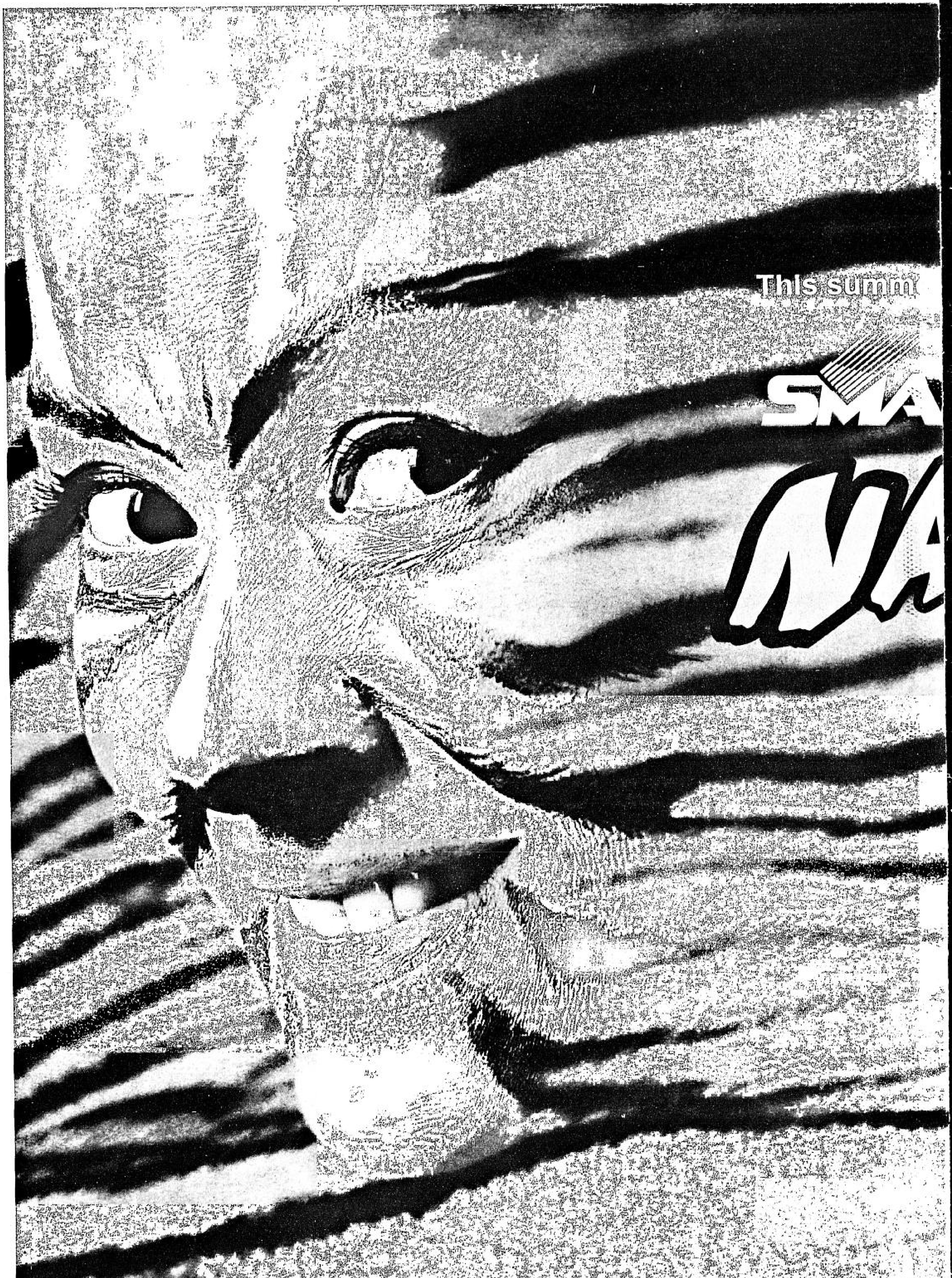

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  - Jamaican Nights 2004, Cebu Beach Club - April 16-17
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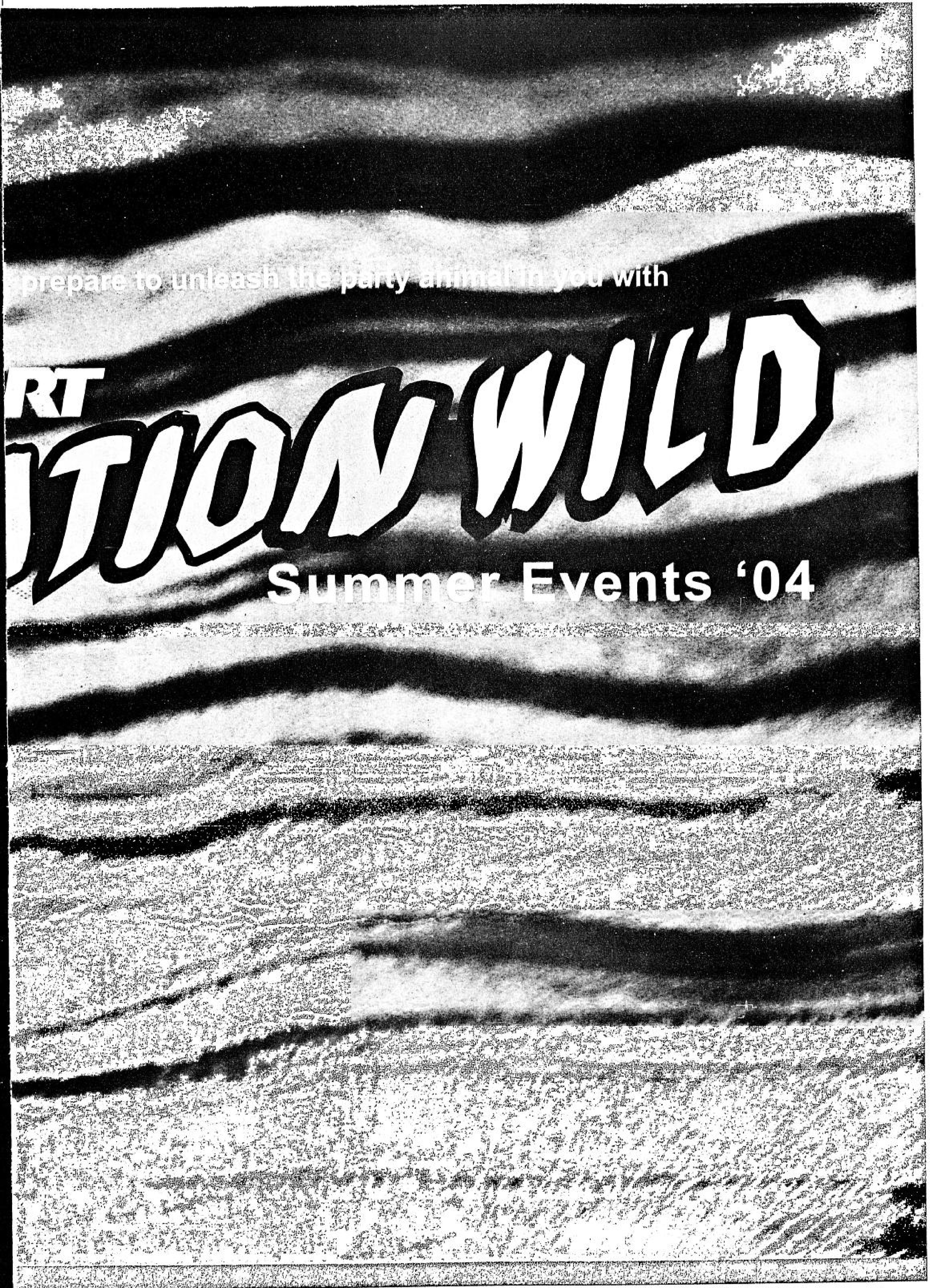

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SMART
Simply Amazing!

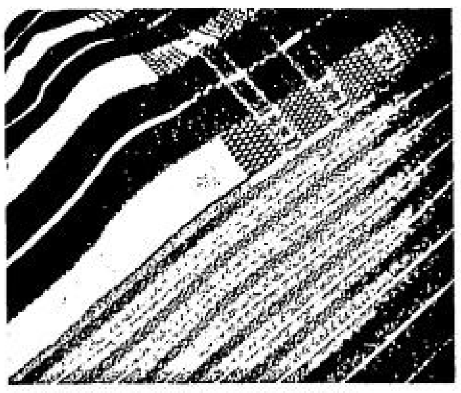
Mat exercises and more

From page I1

Room has acquired a reputation here and abroad for coming up with the best and most colorful placemats in the region.

Easter Weaving also supplies the curtain and linen requirements of such local hotels and resorts as Amanpulo and Dos Palmas. One thing that makes Easter Weaving different, says Doligas, is the effort it puts into catering to customers' specific demand for certain colors and designs.

Items are usually made from a combination of cotton, polyester and acrylic fibers. Since the country has virtually no available raw materials, the company demands for certain imported raw materials from Manila.


TRADITIONAL textures and colors

Integrated

There was a time when Easter Weaving Room was integrated with the school's home economics classes. But it's anything but a school for weavers, since the company only employs skilled workers to keep up with the demand.

More than 40 percent of its products are snapped up by foreign buyers from the US, Japan, Australia, Canada and Saudi Arabia. In 2003, says Doligas, Easter Weaving earned a net income of close to P10 million.

Still, "much as we'd like to increase our production, we can't," she says. "The work we do is quite labor-intensive. Aside from maintaining quality, part of our mission is to educate people on the beauty and richness of indigenous culture through weaving."

That doesn't mean Easter Weaving is stuck on traditional designs. On the contrary, Doligas and the company's in-house designers (often the weavers themselves) update themselves with the latest trends in colors and cuts from Europe and the US. This season, for instance, Doligas says that earth colors will continue to be hot.

Such efforts are also seen in the range of images that end up on its wall hangings, from traditional jars to more contemporary renditions of landscape and abstract patterns. In fact, a number of these wall hangings have an uncanny resemblance to American Indian and Mexican art.

But no, they're all indigenous to the Cordilleras. "These images and patterns are all native to the North," Doligas assures.

The similarities only prove one thing: Art through textiles and, yes, placemats, is universal.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

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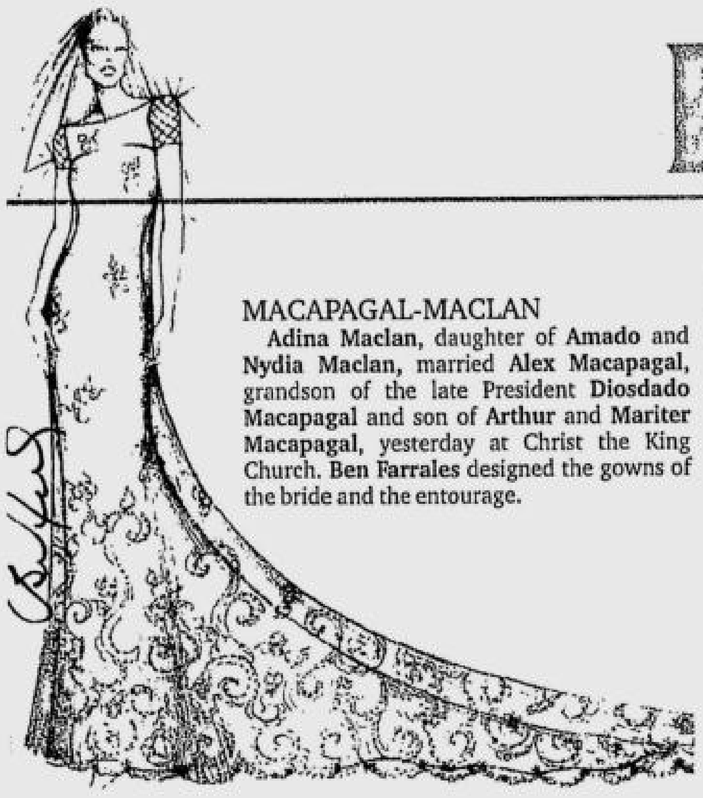
Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the Inquirer *office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.*

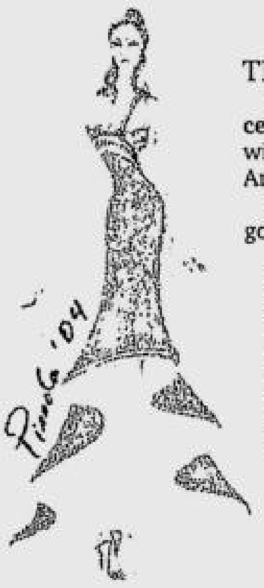


MACAPAGAL-MACLAN

Adina Maclan, daughter of **Amado** and **Nydia Maclan**, married **Alex Macapagal**, grandson of the late President **Diosdado Macapagal** and son of **Arthur** and **Mariter Macapagal**, yesterday at Christ the King Church. **Ben Farrales** designed the gowns of the bride and the entourage.

VERGARA-SABARICOS

Leah Sabaricos, daughter of **Gregorio and Evan Sabaricos**, recently exchanged vows with **Randy Vergara**, son of **Exequiel** and **Merly Vergara**, at Saint Jerome and Saint Susana Parish Church. Officiating priest was Fr. **Tom Villanueva**. Reception was held at Vivere Suites, Filinvest Corporate City, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City.



TIU DEBUT

Christy Tiu, daughter of **Jimmy** and **Jocelyn Tiu**, celebrated her 18th birthday with a dinner-dance on March 26 at Annabel's, QC.

Eric Pineda designed the debutante's gown in rose-red silk chiffon. The bodice was alternately ruched in red and pink, highlighted by a pink crystal brooch. The skirt featured an asymmetrically cut hem with an underlayer of blush pink silk chiffon. Flower-shaped Swarovski pins adorned her hair.

DE LEON-SISON

Jason de Leon, department manager of the Blaupunkt Division of Robert Bosch Inc., will marry Dr. **Jennifer Sison**, associate physician at Belo Medical Center, on April 16, 3 p.m., at Santuario de San Antonio, Mc Kinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City. Reception will follow at Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati City.

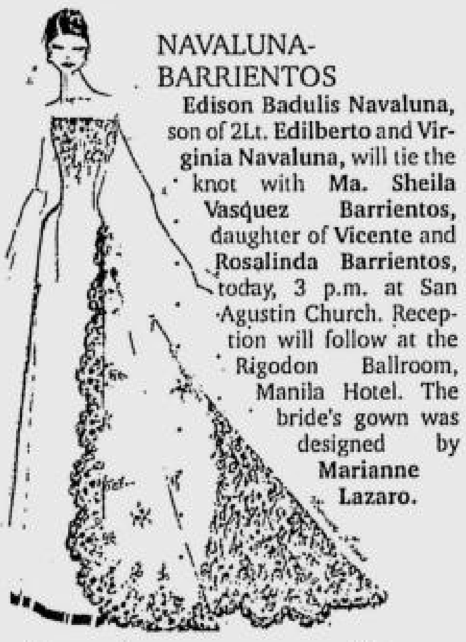
Jason is a management graduate from De La Salle University and an MBA graduate from the Ateneo Graduate School of Business, while Jennifer is a biology graduate of De La Salle University and a graduate of medicine at the UERM Medical Center.

ANG-RAMOS

The engagement party of **Philip Ang** and **Vlelyn Ramos** was recently held at the Dragon Gate Seafood Restaurant, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. The couple will be joined in matrimony on June 6.

ABRAU-MANUBAG

Michelle Melbert A. Abrau, son of 2Lt. **Herberto** and **Ermelinda Abrau**, will tie the knot with **Marenor T. Manubag**, daughter of engineer **Mario** and **Eleonor Manubag**, on May 8, at San Lorenzo Ruiz Parish Church, Tambo, Iligan City. Msgr. **Emelio L. Bataclan**, DD, will officiate the wedding. Reception will follow at Cheradel Suites, Iligan City. Lyn's Bridal Shop designed the gown.



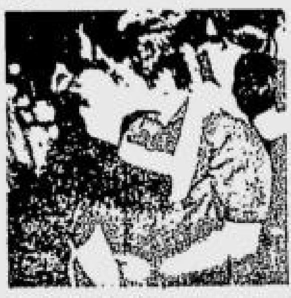
NAVALUNA-BARRIENTOS

Edison Badulis Navaluna, son of 2Lt. **Edilberto** and **Virginia Navaluna**, will tie the knot with **Ma. Sheila Vasquez Barrientos**, daughter of **Vicente** and **Rosalinda Barrientos**, today, 3 p.m. at San Agustin Church. Reception will follow at the Rigodon Ballroom, Manila Hotel. The bride's gown was designed by **Marianne Lazaro**.

Close up
lova palooza

Congratulations to the 1st batch of winners of the Close-up Lovapalooza moments Photo contest!

Luzviminda Monroy
Novaliches, QC



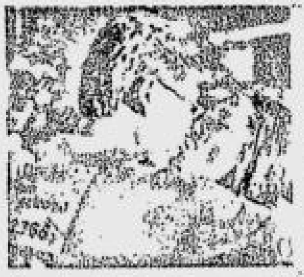
Anton Sheker
Salcedo Village, Makati City

Ma. Christine Saplala

Sonny Aquino
Makati City

Rodrigo Lopez
Makati City

Romeo Magdaluyo
Makati City



Garrie A. David
Imus, Cavite

Lloyd T. Jumpay
Mandaluyong City

Kenji Hasegawa
Quezon City

Francis Malasig
Intramuros Manila

Send in your interesting photos at Close-up Lovapalooza last Feb. 13 and get a chance to win the following:
Your personal photo published in Philippine Daily Inquirer
P5,000 in cash
Close-up Lovapalooza giftpack

Joining Instructions

Send your one (1) or two (2) interesting photos taken during Close-up Lovapalooza at Roxas Blvd. or any Lovapalooza party nationwide. On a piece of paper write the caption, place of event, your full name,address, telephone or mobile number and signature.

2. Together with your entry enclose any of the following proof of purchase:
one (1) 150ml or 100ml Close-up empty carton
two (2) 50ml Close-up empty cartons
three (3) 25ml Close-up empty cartons
eight (8) 10ml Close-up empty sachet packs

3. Outside the envelope, write the promo title: Close-up Lovapalooza Moments Photo Contest

Mail to: Unilever Philippines, 1351 U.N. Avenue, Manila
Prizes: For each batch, we will choose 10 winners of the best Close-up Lovapalooza photos
Each winner will get the following:

- personal photo featured in Philippine Star and Philippine Daily Inquirer
- Cash prize of P5,000
- Close-up Lovapalooza giftpack inclusive of Close-up Toothpastes and 2 Close-up Lovapalooza Shirts

Conditions: -All pictures will be the property of Unilever and can be used by the company without additional compensation.

- Participants may send in as many entries as they want.However, they can only win once during the whole promo period.Non-winning entries can still qualify in the succeeding batch..

-Winners will be notified through registered mail and telephone.Prizes may be claimed at the Unilever Office upon presentation of a valid I.D. Redemption period shall be within 60 days from receipt of notification.

Entries for	Deadline	Judging Date
March 28	March 19	March 22
April 4	March 26	March 29

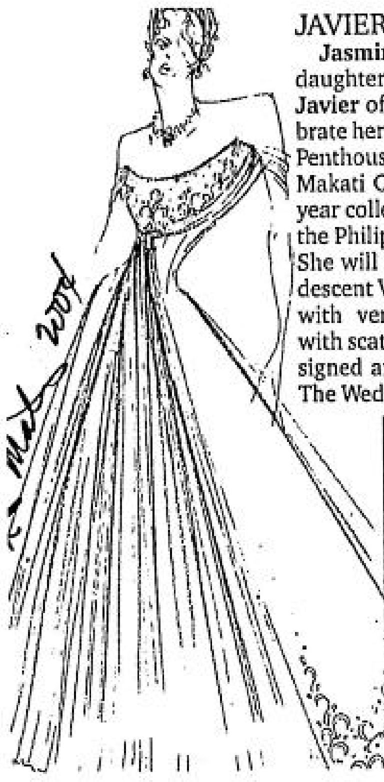
-The judging will be at the Unilever Office at 5 P.M.
- Deadline of submission of entries will be as follows:
- Promo period is from March 12 to April 4.

Per BFAD-DOH Permit No 0238, Series of 2004

Milestones

TAJUNA DEBUT

Irish Pearl "Dimple" Tajuna will celebrate her 18th birthday with a dinner-dance on April 3, 5 p.m., at the Big Tent, Isidora Hills, Barangay Holy Spirit Drive, Don Antonio, QC. Dimple is the eldest daughter of **Wilfredo** and **Imelda Tajuna.** Her escorts are **Wil-Tan Tajuna** and **Marck Anthony Dabu.** Special guest is **Ara Mina.** Guest speaker is Rep. **Chuck Mathay.**



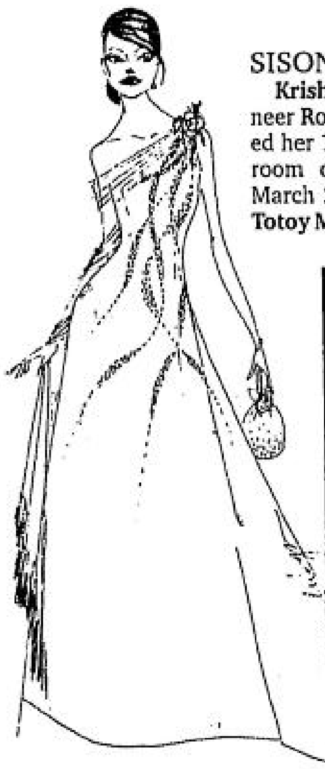
JAVIER DEBUT

Jasmine Ann Navales Javier, daughter of **Manny** and **Ruth Javier** of Dasmariñas, Cavite, will celebrate her 18th birthday on April 2 at The Penthouse, B-A Lepanto Building, Makati City. The debutante is a second year college student at the University of the Philippines taking up Public Health. She will be wearing an off-shoulder iridescent Victorian ballgown accentuated with vertical electric pleated chiffon with scattered delicate crystal beads designed and executed by **Paul Mateo** of The Wedding Day.

CADUNGOG DEBUT

Juna Rebekah Cadungog celebrated her debut on March 19 at the Rigodon Ballroom of the Manila Peninsula Hotel. Her parents are **Victoria** and engineer **Jovito Cadungog Jr.**

Juna is taking up mass communication at St. Paul College, QC. She has had stints as a fashion model with top designers.



SISON DEBUT

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n, daughter of engi- lvy Sison, celebrat- y at the Grand Ball- cer-Continental on n was designed by

ALON DEBUT

Angelica Pauline Gonzales Alon, daughter of **Cecilia Theresa Gonzales**, will celebrate her 18th birthday on April 4, 5 p.m., at Hotel Dominique in Tagaytay City. Her gown was designed by **Paul Rex Mateo** of The Wedding Day.

Angelica is a second year nursing student at Philippine College and Health Science School.

Value-packed wedding packages

COUPLES who are scheduling their wedding in the next three months should check out Discovery Suites' current incentive offer which gives them more perks, in addition to those offered in the hotel's value-packed wedding packages.

Those who will confirm their bookings at Discovery Suites until May 15 and are availing of a wedding package will enjoy the following value-added benefits: for receptions of 50 persons—free corkage of up to five bottles of wine/champagne. Receptions for 120 persons also enjoy free corkage of up to 10 bottles plus a complimentary lunch buffet for two at Café Barrio. The couple will also receive a special limited edition of a "Time Capsule Journal," in which the bride and groom can chronicle everything they have experienced in a fun and rewarding way.

Discovery Suites' packages proffer a host of amenities and cuisine prepared by the hotel's executive chef Rick Abasta. The reception packages with buffet menus start at P76,000+ for 80 persons. Wedding amenities include: wedding cake, floral arrangements, one round of non-alcoholic fruit punch, soda or iced tea, guest book with personalized, pen, decorated cage with doves, one bottle of sparkling wine for the bridal toast at the reception.

To complete the event, the couple will also receive a complimentary overnight stay in a one-bedroom suite with buffet breakfast for two at Serendipity Lounge and a special bridal gift.

Call 6838256 or 6352222 local 3337 or 3339. Discovery Suites is located at 25 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Buffet presentation for soon-to-wed couples

CATER Club will host a lunch buffet presentation for soon-to-wed couples on April 4, 11 a.m., at Phoenix Hall of Gazebo Royale on Visayas Ave., QC. Cater Club will also exhibit a variety of table arrangements and will give prospective couples a chance to taste the different dishes it offers. A five-percent discount will be given to couples who will make reservations during the event.

Call 7238220, 7251419, 7210794 or 0919-2840496.

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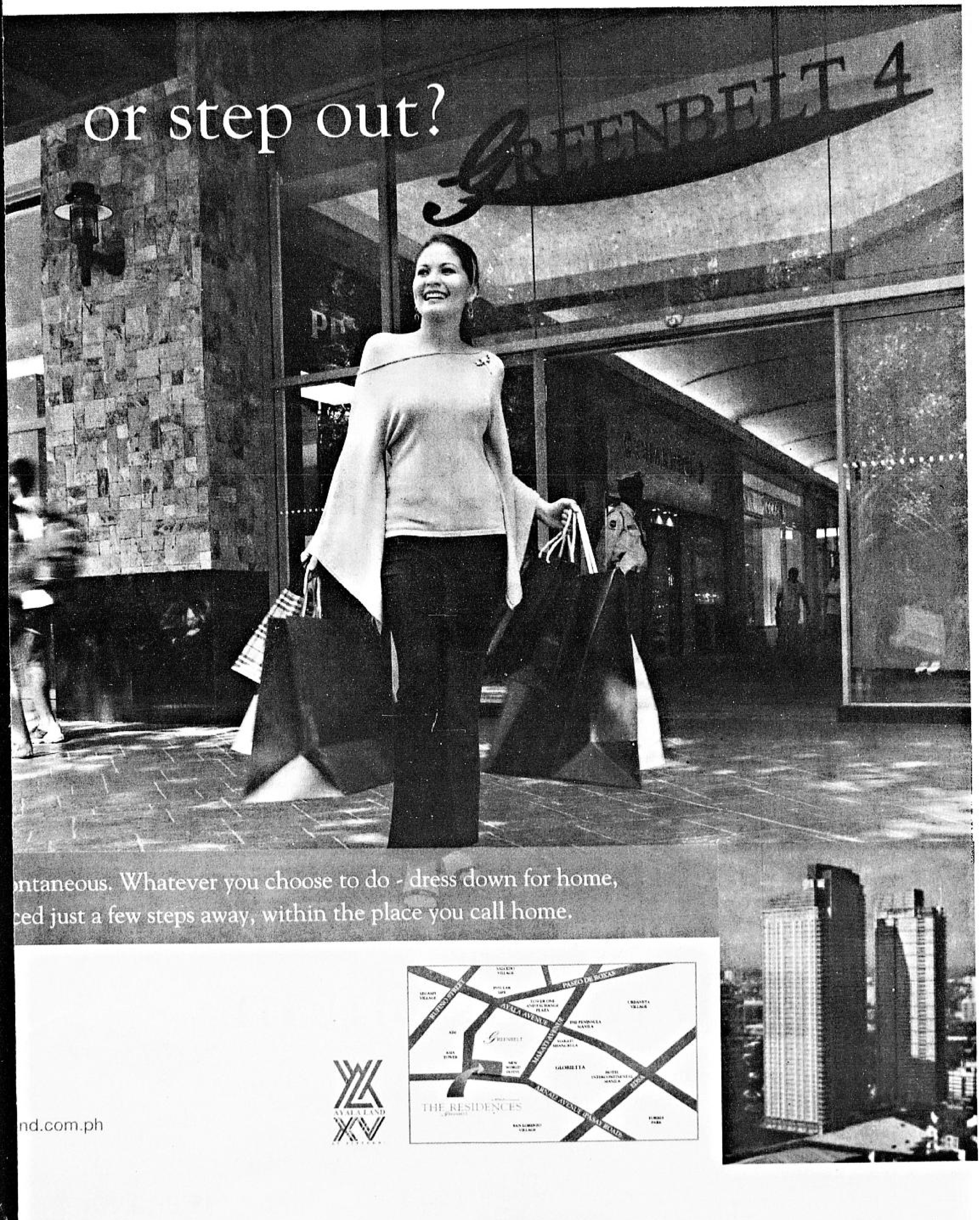
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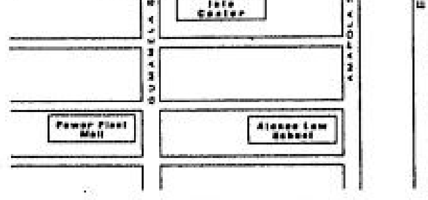
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NEWLYWEDS Jerry and Shey Esquivel (nee Tam)

ESQUIVEL-TAM NUPTIALS

Chance reunion leads to altar date

The bride was absolutely radiant as she walked down the aisle in an off-shoulder gown by whiz designer Jojie Lloren

By Maurice Arcache

"SO here we are again. I guess it must be fate..."

To the strains of "After All," petite and vivacious Shey Tam walked down the aisle of the Basilica de San Sebastian, straight into the arms of her waiting groom-to-be, Jerry Esquivel.

The choice of song was perfect. It was the couple's chance meeting four years after not having seen each other that sealed their fate, *palanggas*.

Jerry is a hot marketing supervisor of UPS Europe and has been based in Brussels since 2001. Shey was a manager for Merchant Sales at Citibank Manila.

Pals since high school, the couple lost touch when Jerry moved to Paris for his MBA. It was during his Christmas break in 2000 when they accidentally ran into each other.

Not only was their friendship renewed, but a year after, romance was in the air after a flurry of text messages, phone calls and e-mails across the seas.

It culminated in a funny yet touching proposal by Jerry (on his knees, take note!) in January 2003 at Starbucks, to the amusement of the coffee crowd.

Jerry is the only son of Unilab's senior vice president, Rizalino P. Esquivel, and popular jeweler Victoria P. Esquivel. Shey is the only child of mega businessman Nilo R. Tam, Serpenair Group Inc. president, and charity-oriented socialite Precilla M. Tam, an active member of Bel-Air's Ladies Committee.

Shey was absolutely radiant as she walked down the aisle in an off-shoulder gown by whiz designer Jojie Lloren no less, *palanggas*. The cymbidium bloom on her hair was a special touch by master makeup artist Patrick Rosas.

Fr. David T. Concepcion officiated the "I do's" and gave a special homily. Sherika Tam and Terese Yap showered the bride's path with flowers. The candle sponsors were Jek Taruc IV and Stephanie Floresca, veil sponsors were Jason de Leon and Ruby Ines, and cord sponsors were George Lao and Abigail Cardino.

The couple's hot, hot name-droppable godparents were Joselito D. Campos Jr. and Nina D. Aguas, Macario U. Te and Teresita P. Limgenco, Dr. Ami A. Madamba and Dr. Nelia O. Mercado, Dr. Ramon P. Ongsiako Jr. and Dr. Ursula S. Nido, Prisco de la Paz and Nancy A. Padilla, lawyer Alfonso Reyno Jr. and Dr. Annabella N. Paredes, Robert C. Coyiuto Jr. and Violeta Santos, and Samuel S. Yap and Carol Villavicencio.

The invitees were treated to fun, hip and fabulous cocktails and dinner at that in-demand hotel, Makati Shangri-La, where they were totally entertained by the funny video executed by Ethel Bondoc and Genesis Nolasco of Storytellers. It depicted the couple's love story as à la—hold your breath—"Mission Impossible!"

The paper lanterns that adorned the ballroom was Shey's special touch, an idea she got while dining out in Manille. The couple prepared scrapbooks where friends and family could write their wishes for the newlyweds.

Complementing the table flower arrangements by Jun Hen were table name cards prepared by the bride and her pal Geneva Salazar. The cards showed pictures of the newlyweds visiting spots like Paris, Berlin, Brussels, London, Boracay, Ilocos and Quezon.

The coordinator, Wedding Treasures, made sure the church and reception activities went as smooth as silk. It did, darlings.

Apres the cutting of the towering cake by Pastry Bin, speeches were made by the best man, Gerard Surla, and the father of the bride, Nilo Tam.

Enjoying the well-planned menu were former Gen. Lisandro

CHANCE/ K4

SHEY and Jerry with their parents Nilo and Precilla Tam and Rizalino P. and Vicky Esquivel

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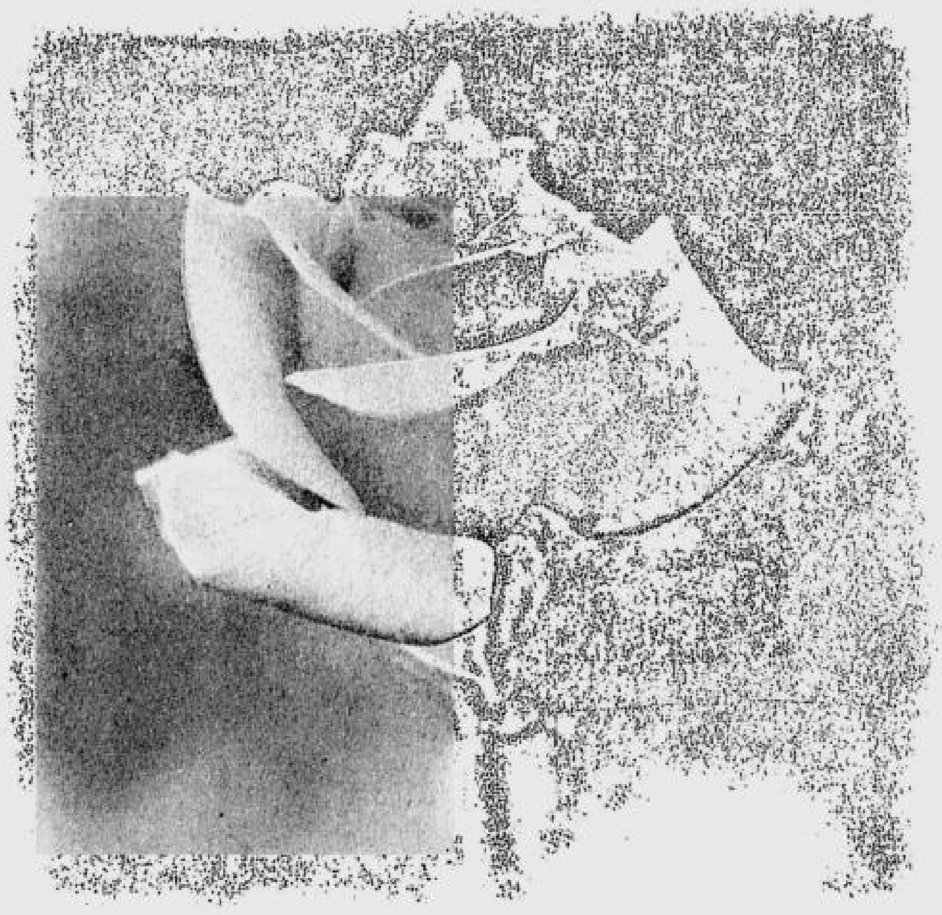

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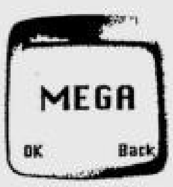
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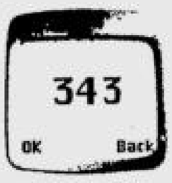
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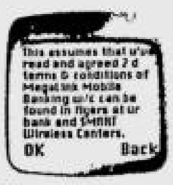
2. Send to 343.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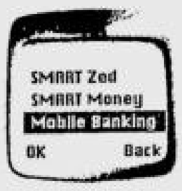
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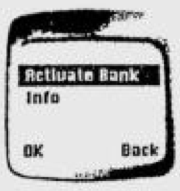
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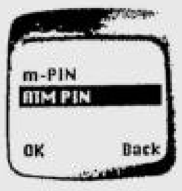
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OK
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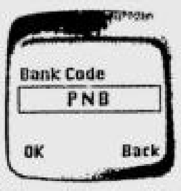
3. Select ATM PIN to activate bank, press ok.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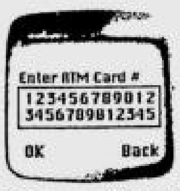
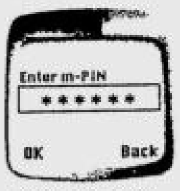
PNB

4. Enter the bank code* of your depository bank, press ok.
* Refer to list of bank codes below


Enter ATM Card #
1234567890123456789012345

5. Enter your ATM card number, press OK.
Note: Minimum of 10, maximum of 25 digits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THE ELEGANT principal sponsors included (front row) Violeta Santos, Nancy Padilla, Dr. Annabella Paredes, Carol Villavicencio, Nina Aguas, Dr. Nelia Mercado, Dr. Ursula Nido and Teresita Limgencio; (second row) lawyer Hermino Esquivel (representing Joselito Campos Jr.), Prisco de la Paz, Robert Coyuito Jr., Dr. Ami Madamba, Samuel Yap, Macario Te, lawyer Alfonso Reyno Jr. and Dr. Ramon Ongsiako Jr.

THE BRIDE'S mother, Precilla Tam, with Eddie and Annie Leung, Murray and Helena Yeung and the bride's father, Nilo Tam

Chance reunion leads to altar date

From page K1

Abadia, James Go, Citibank's Benjie Olivia, Nilo Tam's uncle Jun Rosales, Shey's aunt Dr. Rowena M. Sevilla, and guests who jetted in from freezing Chicago, Illinois and Bristol, Connecticut, respectively. Shey's uncle, Fr. Rizal Madamba Sanitos, SVD, who is based in Nagoya, Japan, was also present.

As always, when the Spirit of '67 Band started playing those swinging '70s numbers, the invitees all rushed to the floor.

Seen dancing were the Citibank Sales Group, the bride's gang from Singles for Christ, Gie Lansang, Noah Manarang and Jing Atadero, Francis Ang of Hyundai Asia, and the groom's German officemate, Christoph Paulus, who jetted in from Brussels to be with his pal.

Partying lasted way past the bewitching hour of 1 a.m. Needless to say, everybody had a grand time.

A day or two later, Shey and her prince charming sailed off to Lagen Resort, El Nido, for a short honeymoon, before Jerry goes back to Brussels to resume his work. Shey, meanwhile, will lead a more challenging career as a loving wife.

To Mr. and Ms Jerry Esquivel, best wishes! Here's a prayer for you: "Always keep your eyes on our Lord because He never takes His eyes off you."

Cheers, *palanggas*!

ENTOURAGE: Secondary sponsors Tiffy Floresca, Ruby Ines and Abi Cardino; bridesmaids Jackie and Armie Esquivel, flower girls Sherica Tam and Melissa Yap, maid of honor Ingrid Palma, best man Gerald Surla, veil sponsor George Lao Jr., groomsman Ian Sevilla, coin bearers Tristan Esquivel and Angelo Tam, secondary sponsor Jaspm de Leon and Jek Taruc IV

TRISHIA Lichauco with Jerry and Shey and Brgy. Captain Constancia Lichauco

THE COUPLE with Nilo Tam, Teresita Limgenco and lawyer Alfonso Reyno and wife Yoly

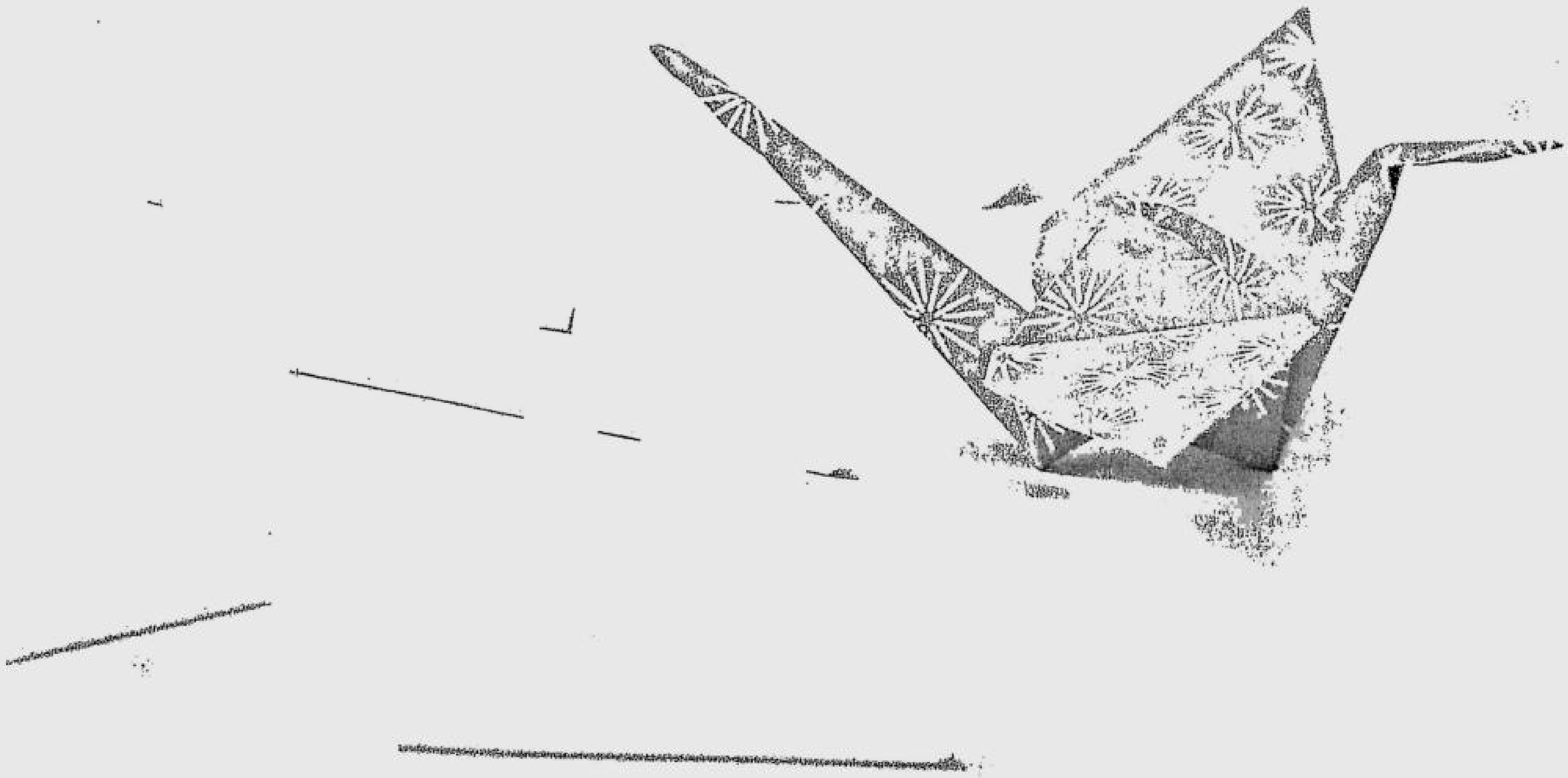
DR. RAMON Ongsiako with Jerry E. and Nina Aguas

CARLA Santos

SHEY and Joanne Jacobe

THE GANG: Gie Lansang, Mon Mangahas, Jing Atadero, Noah Manarang, Shey and Christoph Paulus, a German pal of the groom

Not just another paper boat.



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Sunday LIFESTYLE

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THE TERNO, worn so proudly at the "Hapon ng Pamana" event

Can you imagine the Sea Princess wearing the wrong attire to an event? Make that two events

Look, Ma, the terno's back and I don't have one

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

JUST when I thought the Filipiniana scene was over and done with, the motif was back with a vengeance.

As I looked into the black hole of my closet, I realized I didn't own any authentic-looking national costumes. My Red Cross terno gown, expertly done by **Dennis Lustico**, was not the realistic version so I don't even consider that as a choice. And besides, it was my last season's look and so should not be seen in public again, unless as a last resort.

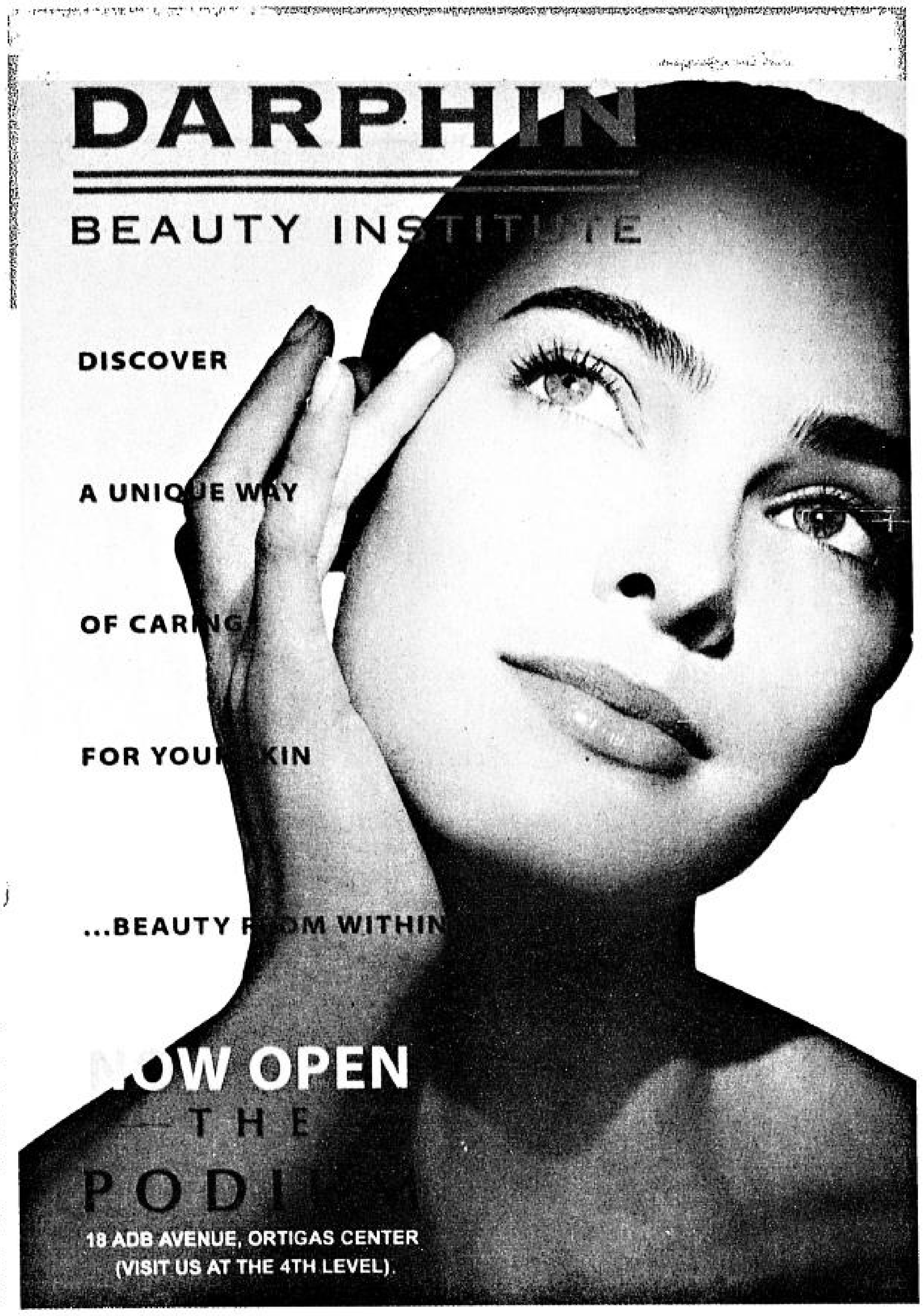
In panic, I rushed to Balikbayan Handicrafts to see if I could incorporate some *capiz* or shells into an existing outfit just to get that Pinoy element. But afraid of looking like Maria Clara or, worse, Sisa, I opted to wear a floral cocktail dress instead.

Bad move! The minute I entered the Catholic Women's Club event, I knew I was wearing a wrong number. Even master of style, Philippine Tatler editor **Anton San Diego**, commented on my inappropriate outfit.

What a crisis I was in! Being awkwardly dressed, not in the theme of the party, and yet on time for the event never happens to me but somehow that afternoon, my style sense was missing in action and my timekeeping exact. The invitation stated elegant casual attire, but the scene was actually Filipiniana since the main event was a terno fashion show.

Called the "Hapon ng Pamana," the fundraising tea party was held at the residence of **Bea Zobel de Ayala**. After having two servings of the make-your-own *halo-halo* (washed

LOOK/ L3



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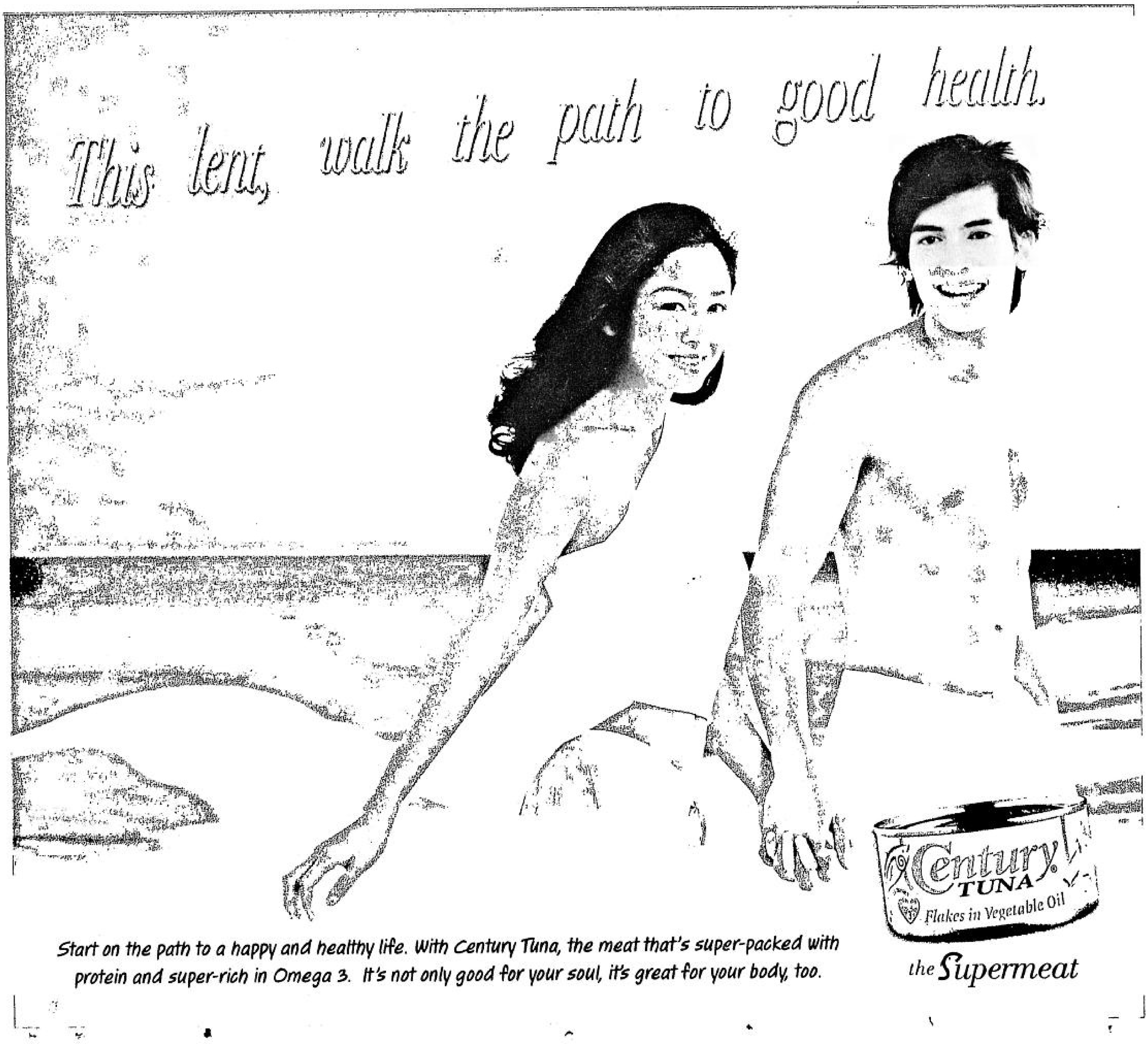

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the Supermeat

TRAVEL

Editor **Rosario A. Garcellano**

GOLD RUSH. Sun-swept hills between Sacramento and Davis are the first daytime view of California, coming in overnight from Oregon by train. The trip from Seattle to San Jose takes 24 hours, but with diversions like this, one hardly notices the time.

In transit

Text and photos by Angelina G. Goloy
Contributor

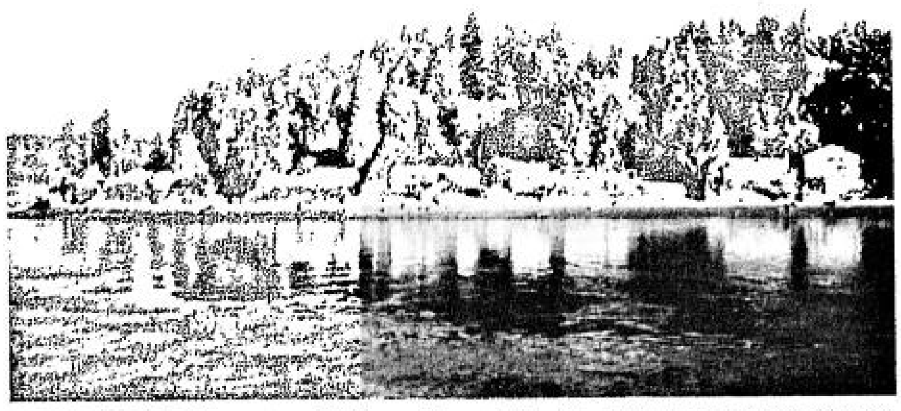
COULD you please put me beside a window? I like sightseeing!" The elderly woman, sounding girlishly giddy, was obviously trying to make the most of the last few moments of what must have been a thoroughly enjoyable vacation. How then could the flight attendant not oblige, even at the risk of disappointing the passenger who would soon realize that from 30,000 feet there's not much to see?

Like children on a field trip, tourists will scramble for the seats with a view. The sights, after all, are what one comes to a place for—not only the designated tourist spots but also ordinary scenery one passes along the way.

And it is in transit that one finds oneself musing, over the passing pictures as well as familiar ones flashing in the mind's eye. Comparisons are consequently made, along with a mental note on the tales to tell the folks back home. Perhaps wishes, too, of someday returning with those one left behind?

Like transitions in a literary or musical composition, these little surprises on the road provide the thread of a tourist's tale. So even in a group, one comes away with an experience uniquely one's own.

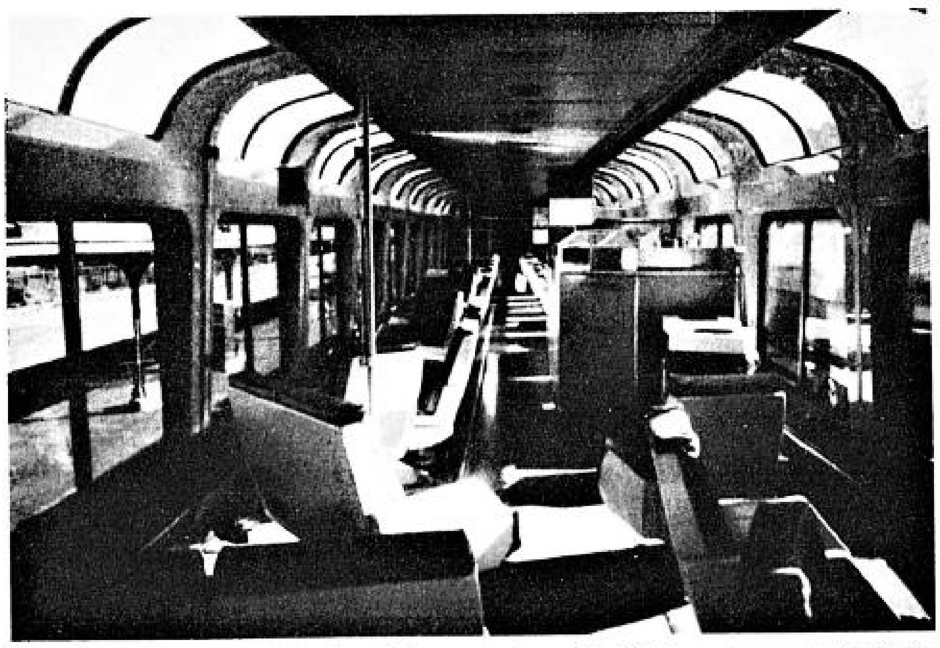
RED RIVER. Neither blue nor green, the color of this canal is what catches the attention of passengers on the No. 48 tram service between Melbourne central and suburban North Balwyn in Canada. Probably due to the iron-rich soil, one visiting geologist theorizes.



WATER WORLD. Home to a US Navy shipyard, the city of Bremerton in Washington becomes a virtual fairy-tale island as one sails farther away on board a Washington State Ferry crossing the Puget Sound to Seattle. Alas, daily commuters on their way to work would rather stretch out on the benches and catch a few more winks, take their morning coffee while warming their hands on Styrofoam cups, read the papers, put on makeup, or just smoke and chat during the (free) hour-long ride.

CROOKED ROAD. It's actually the 17-Mile Drive in Pebble Beach, Monterey, California. Photographed from the front seat of a car negotiating a tricky curb near the northernmost point of Carmel Bay, the road seems to bend on the sides while the trees make way. It's a bit eerie, considering one has just passed the "Ghost Tree," a cypress with truncated branches, one of the points of interest along the coast.

ROAD SHOW. Sunset is the best time to drive down Highway 99, connecting Vancouver and the mountain ski resort village of Whistler. That's when nature puts on a spellbinding show, for which the road earned its nickname "Sea to Sky," apparently in reference to its boundless beauty, and a reputation for being "the most romantic road in the world."



SIGHTSEEING. No scrambling for window seats here. The Sightseer Lounge on Amtrak's Coast Starlight train serves snacks, sandwiches and beverages, but the views are on the house. But why is it deserted? See, the train has pulled up in Portland, Oregon, which is the first smoking stop in four hours.

TRAVELBRIEFS

Holy Week destinations

CHECK out Hotel PonteFino's Batangas Discovery Tours, which offers a variety of activities to suit guests' interests and inclinations.

Those seeking spiritual renewal in this solemn season may join the Visita Iglesia that will take them to nine of Batangas' beautiful and historic churches—among others, St. Martin's Basilica in Taal, the church of our Lady of Casaysay, the Carmelite Convent in Lipa, and the Rafael Church in Calaca.

The Taal Heritage Tour will take guests to the charming town of narrow streets lined with preserved *bahay na bato*, the ancestral homes of Batangas' wealthy and illustrious families.

For the adventurous, there is the trek to the Nagtuon Falls set in a lush and serene setting; the Calumpang River Exploration, a relaxing ride on the gentle river passing through scenic surroundings; or the Village Market Tour, a look-see at local handicrafts and delicacies.

At the hotel located in Pastor Village in Gulod Labac, Batangas City, a meditation room will be open 24 hours. And urbanites suffering from flagging energy and spirits may indulge in soothing massages or herbal body scrubs.

The Batangas Discovery Package on April 5-11 includes an overnight stay for two adults and two children under 12 years of age; breakfast, lunch and dinner; and assorted perks.

For inquiries and reservations, contact Hotel PonteFino's Manila sales office at (02) 421-FINO or (02) 4372103, or the reservations office in Batangas City at (043) 723-FINO. Or visit www.pontefino.com.ph.

* * *

AND then there's the Fairways & Bluewater Golf and Country Club in Boracay.

Children of all ages may choose from the activities available—swimming, water-wading, jet skiing and windsurfing; billiards and table tennis; horseback-riding; or, if you don't like sea water, taking a dip in the resort's fresh-water swimming pool, one of Boracay's largest.

Dads and moms may play at the 18-hole Graham Marsh golf course, described as one of the most beautiful and best designed in the world and famous for its scenic spread (lush greenery, sightings of rare island birds, scattered waterfalls, a recreated tunnel).

The resort's Mediterranean-inspired villas are deemed the most luxurious in Boracay. Each one is centrally air conditioned, fully furnished with plush appointments, and has its own large den that opens to a balcony overlooking the golf course, a kitchen and bar, a sizable dining area, large bedrooms, and two large bathrooms with tubs.

For inquiries and reservations, call (632) 633-1393.

Subic adventure

SPORTS aficionados, treasure hunt enthusiasts and travel bugs are invited to the second and tougher leg of the Subic Legendary Adventure on April 24. The event is being held in line with the world celebration of Earth Day.

Teams will now explore and find their way through more secluded locations, steer through new nature spots, search for concealed treasures, perform strenuous tasks, and solve puzzles and mental quizzes—all in the spirit of fun, teamwork and concern for the environment.

At the Subic Bay Boardwalk, teams will be sent off on a 6-hour journey through the rich tropical landscape of Subic Bay. Armed with maps, pens and will power, they will drive around cued by answers to mental puzzles, clues and treasure items that they will find along the game course.

The finish line is at the Legenda Hotel, Subic's five-star gem on the Waterfront.

More than P100,000 in prizes, including cash and vacations to Malaysia and China, will be given away.

This year's beneficiary is the GuBAT Learning Center, a non-government interactive exhibit facility run by the Haribon Foundation and Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, to educate guests and tourists on bat preservation and overall care for our fragile natural resources. The center is located at the Bat Kingdom Grounds in Upper Cubi.

The 2nd Subic Legendary Adventure is a joint project of the Legend International Resorts Ltd. and the SBMA in partnership with Petron Corp.

Registration is ongoing. Form a car team of 2-4 members with a driver and navigators and call 732-9888 or (047) 252-4440. For more information, text 0917-8402-147 or 0917-341-3960.

NEXT-generation social beauties. Bright, young and confident are the new girls on the block.

GENTLEMAN escort Roman Recto with elegant aunt Lucille Locsin

BUSINESS geniuses. PDI's Marixi Prieto and Jollibee's Tony Tan Caktiong

EOY finalist Myrna Tang Yao with daughter Joan

STYLISH guests. Lulu Tan Gan, in a Dennis Lustico terno, with Mayen Carmona

TOP women achievers. National Artist Anita Magsaysay-Ho between EOY finalists Doris Ho and Sandy Romualdez

PAMPANGA'S best family. Lolita Hizon started small, but is now a big player in the meat industry.

Look, Ma, the terno's back and I don't have one

From page L1

down with diet coke to cut down on calories), I pretended to be invisible until the show was over.

My sartorially-imposed shyness was so unfortunate because I wanted to mingle with the elegant crowd dressed in different versions of the terno. The kids who were in the show looked so cute in their *bayanihan* costumes, which of course only underscored the fact that they were dressed more appropriately than me.

The clincher was when I saw my mother dressed in the correct theme. I knew there and then I was headed to **Joe Salazar's** shop to have several outfits made.

Filipiniana again

The second event, although not as stylish in terms of fashion since it was a business sector thing, was the Entrepreneur of the Year Awards Night at Makati Shangri-La Hotel. The invitation indicated Filipiniana for the women and formal barong for the men.

That evening, the prestigious award was given to **Tony Tan Caktiong**, the undisputed leader in the Philippine fast food industry. His big idea: Jollibee. And his advice was not to be afraid of committing mistakes—just remember not to commit them again.

I was most proud when my younger sister, **Sandy Romualdez**, was chosen as one of the 18 finalists. PDI and Summit Media (**Lisa Gokongwei Cheng** was also a finalist) were the only two companies representing media. The rest of the companies were in telecommunications, retail and food industries, including two in coffee.

All the entrepreneurs' stories are so inspiring and admirable. Most started with initial small investments that have multiplied seven times over; more importantly, they are generating numerous jobs for thousands of Filipinos. One company, Magsaysay Maritime Corp., represented by **Doris Magsaysay-Ho**, has created 18,000 jobs!

CNN's Talk Asia host and award-winning anchor **Lorraine Hahn** did a great job as mistress of ceremonies as she was witty and funny in engaging the entrepreneurs to share bits of wisdom on their successes. She was the only celebrity present that evening aside from… well, me. (You want proof? Joan, one of the daughters of a finalist, **Myrna Tang Yao**, told me she was a fan of mine.)

We all learn from more experienced individuals. So when each finalist gave his or her insight on succeeding in business, I listened intently in hopes of improving my own interior design business, Trezza Group, Inc., which had its 15th anniversary just this week.

One advice struck me because I

LOOK/ L4

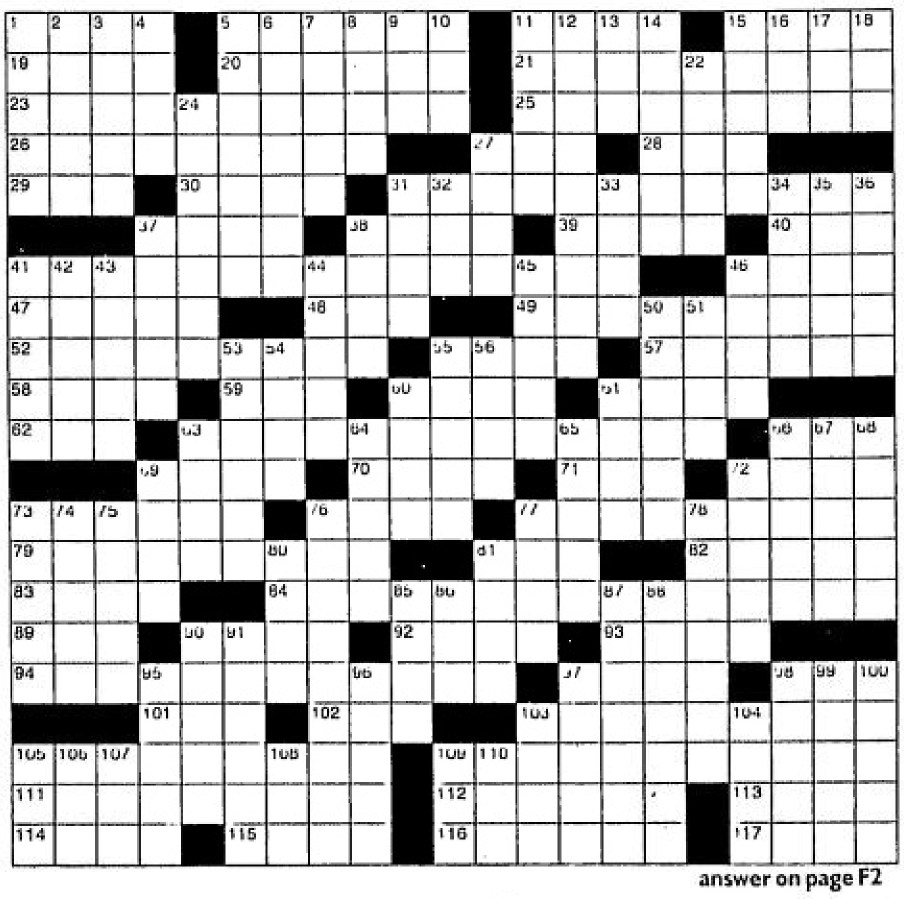
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone

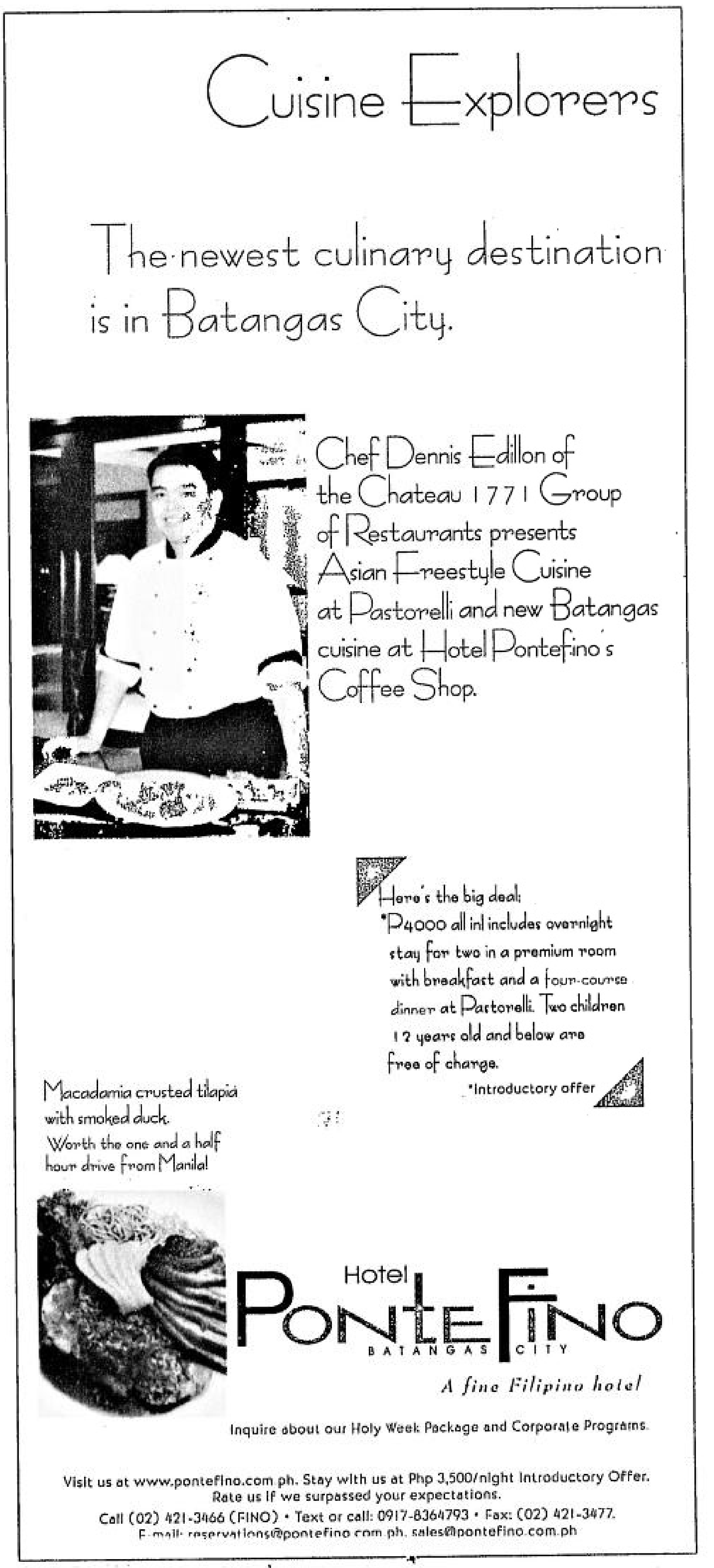
ONE FOR ALL

ACROSS
1 Freeway exit
5 Whole
11 Emulate Ella
15 Facts and figures
19 Margarine
20 More costly
21 Mortgagor, often
23 Phone activity of big-statured people?
25 Fruity drink
26 Brunch staples
27 "Alley —"
28 "Cinque" minus "due"
29 Fish eggs
30 Windsors, e.g.
31 Very rough on a piece of sports equipment?
37 Cons' counterparts
38 — Alto, CA
39 Actor Tamblyn
40 "7 Faces of Dr. —" (Tony Randall film)
41 Result of dropping an ice-cream treat?
46 Auction actions
47 Simple calculators
48 Desk wood
49 Ludicrous
52 Mai tai and mimosa, e.g.
55 List-ending abbr.
57 Cliffside nests
58 Towel possessive
59 Docs, briefly
60 Narrow cut
61 Autocrat
62 Suffix with Vietnam
63 Toss some corn bread across?
66 Babe in the woods?
69 Mr. — (fictional sleuth)
70 Stringy
71 Entertainer Zadora
72 Actress Skye
73 Cry uncle
76 Quick snack
77 Thomas Arne's "Rule, —"
79 Not retail
81 Motorist's org.
82 Croc's cousin
83 Crease
84 Impudent behavior during a hurricane?
89 Mentalist Geller
90 Encounter
92 Slithery swimmers
93 Part in a play
94 Sharpening gizmos used in a prof's address?
97 Pool division
98 Plus
101 "That — lie!"
102 Litter-loathing org.
103 Bank customer, at times
105 In one's free time
109 Pumice used while bathing?
111 Gave heed (to)
112 Produce charged particles in
113 Baseball's Slaughter
114 Charity
115 Divining tools
116 Ordered about
117 Army chow

DOWN
1 Helicopter blade
2 1836 siege site
3 Major scuffle
4 Survey
5 Particular printing
6 Least messy
7 Stories
8 Eye part
9 Stimpy's sidekick
10 Work unit
11 Photo session
12 Physical
13 Bloc of docs
14 Extra innings
15 Nerd
16 Santa — winds
17 Tycoon Turner
18 Exist
22 Hideous beasts
24 "Motor City"
27 Stench
31 Reverse side
32 In the style of
33 Ballot garb
34 Perp's excuse
35 Big dipper
36 Fails to win
37 Quick kisses
38 Some are black-eyed
41 Secret store
42 Clarinets' cousins
43 Mother-of-pearl
44 "The Planets" composer
45 Bit of china
46 Mystery novelist Nevada
50 Eye intently
51 Get wind of
53 Playing marbles
54 — facto
55 Split to splice
56 Itty-bitty
60 Die marking
61 Caesar's 107
63 See 100 Down
64 Israel's Sharon
65 First name in TV talk
66 "Reuben, Reuben" star Tom
67 Marriage
68 Razor target
69 Pinochle play
72 Bowled over
73 Horrid
74 Daily task
75 Infant's woe
76 Babbled
77 Cave creatures
78 Eternal
80 Tommie of the Miracle Mets
81 Afflicts
85 Singer Horne
86 Pint-size
87 Big-top swing
88 Did homage to
90 Rock or pop, in Potsdam
91 Pencil pop-on
95 Rows
96 Some newspaper features
97 Clark's partner
98 Make up (for)
99 Taboos
100 With 63 Down, rules of proper attire
103 Puts on
104 Agenda component
105 "Eureka!"
106 — Aviv
107 Hasty escape
108 Party card game
109 Bro or sis
110 "Yoo- —!"



answer on page F2


Cuisine Explorers

The newest culinary destination is in Batangas City.

Chef Dennis Edillon of the Chateau 1771 Group of Restaurants presents Asian Freestyle Cuisine at Pastorelli and new Batangas cuisine at Hotel Pontefino's Coffee Shop.

Here's the big deal:
*P4000 all in! includes overnight stay for two in a premium room with breakfast and a four-course dinner at Pastorelli. Two children 12 years old and below are free of charge.
*Introductory offer

Macadamia crusted tilapia with smoked duck.
Worth the one and a half hour drive from Manila!

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- 20% discount on admission to the Easter Egg Hunt Carnival on April 11

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Free pass to Easter Egg Hunt Carnival for each adult diner.
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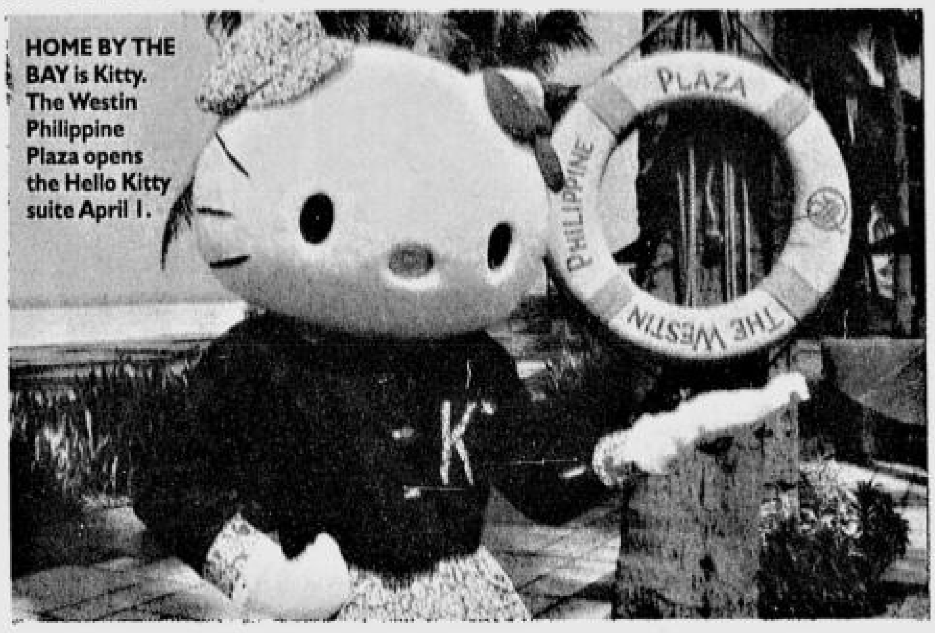

HOME BY THE BAY is Kitty. The Westin Philippine Plaza opens the Hello Kitty suite April 1.

Look, Ma, the terno's back and I don't have one

From page L3

should practice it with all effort: Don't overspend and don't live beyond your means. No wonder I still don't have any investments tucked away—I've been working hard but spending even harder.

My philosophy is more like Hello Kitty. If you are happy, share it and spread it around. That way, positive energy will generate harmony and inner peace. Life is too short to sweat the small stuff.

At a recent licensing fair of Hello Kitty, all the products that could be manufactured here were on display. It was such a heavenly place to be in. Even more wonderful is the new promo they'll have at the Westin Philippine Plaza beginning April 1. They call it "Hello Kitty Holiday at the Westin". More reason to spend and buy fun things to get a chance to stay at their "happiness" suite, complete with Kitty-sized beds for the kids. Like I've always said, sometimes you can buy happiness!

Now that Kitty is celebrating her 30th birthday, perhaps they will come up with a Kitty in a terno or some Filipiniana garb. Wouldn't that be something? I would certainly be proud to have that Kitty in my collection!

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

HELLO Kitty grand dame Virgie Ramo with Pink magazine's Bebeth Timbol (above). Woman on top of SM, Tessie Sy-Coson, accepting Hello Kitty trophy (left)

"Friend, sa picture pa lang ang sarap na!"
Mas pina-gabi, mas pinalapot, mas pinasarap!
"Naku, wait 'til you taste it."
Mas Pinasarap!
Maggi
Sinigang
Sampalok na may GABI
Flavor Mix
May Tunay na GABI

Ang dati nang malapot mas pinalapot pa! Ngayon, MAGGI Sinigang has more and more gabi! Kaya naman sabaw pa lang ulam na! Try mo na friend!

Sunday LIFESTYLE

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or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

SUMMER GLOW

SUMMER gives you the freedom to go natural whenever you can because it's too hot to even attempt to wear layers of makeup on your face or spray thick perfume on your body. While you do need a bit of glitter and gloss for party nights—or even in the daytime—don't forget that less is more during summer. 'Tis the season to simplify.

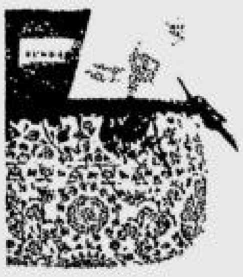
Your summer itinerary should have no room for split ends, greasy forehead, ghastly sunburn, unbearable sweating and even more unbearable body odor. What you should have time for are sunscreens, super hydrating skin masks, tinted moisturizers, shampoo rich with nutrients, lipcolors bursting with fruity sheen, and fragrances so light they lift you up instead of making you dizzy.

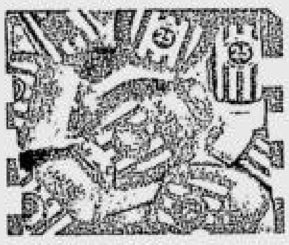
Lucky for you, there's a place where you can get all your secret weapons for surviving the treacherous heat. An upscale, full-service boutique owned and run by Rustan's cosmetics and toiletries division, Essenses is designed to cater to your five senses so it carries a wide range of scents, oils, cosmetics, as well as lines for hair, skin and body care. It is a gold mine of products that you used to have to go to the United States, Europe or Japan to buy, such as Clarins, Nars, Laura Mercier, Le Clerc, Awake, Sisley, Murad (for anti-aging skin system) and Acca Kappa (for men), as well as Estée Lauder, Clinique and other oldies but goodies brands. It also has a nail bar, a room for facial, back and full massage, and a dining area that serves nutritious, easy-on-the-calories dishes.

Essenses is on the ground floor of Glorietta 4 in Makati. The newly opened Essenses on the second floor of Robinsons Place in Ermita houses both the imported prestige brands and up-and-coming lines of cosmetics and skin care.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Survival kits for summer /M2





Skin deep in the season /M3

Makeup that won't break up /M4

Summer tresses /M6

Putting on the spritz /M8

ESTĒE LAUDER

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New Pure Color for eyes, lips, cheeks and nails.

The colors of Spring will delight you. Soft poppies, effervescent blues and crystal pinks create a look that is extravagantly feminine. Includes whimsical new hues of Pure Color for lips, eyes and nails, plus **Illuminating Face Powder** for optical-illusion highlights and a soft, sexy glow. And pick up **FantaSticks**, the limited-edition **Artist's Eye Pencil** set that you can also wear in your hair.

Complimentary Makeover
Come experience the colors of Spring today. Our experts will show you how to create the delightful look of the season.
Call for your appointment from March 28 – April 4, 2004.

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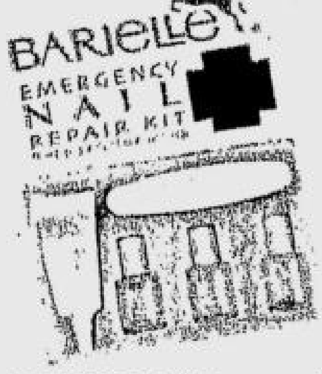
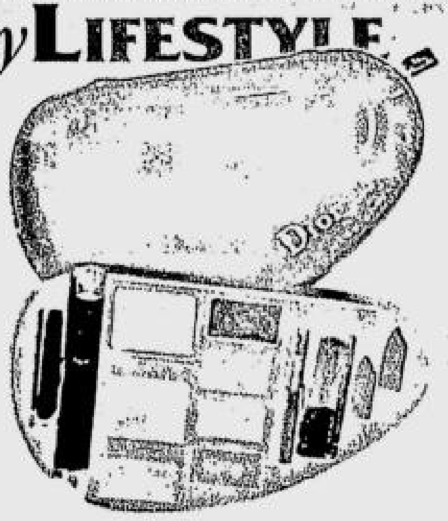
FOR MEN ONLY. King of Shaves travel kit contains small bottles of body wash, moisturizer, shaving gel, facial scrub and face wash.



NAIL 911! Barielle Emergency Nail Repair Kit has nail thickener, intensive nighttime nail renewal, nail protein, nail file and nail strengthener cream.



THE GLAM TRAVELER. Dior's Glamorous makeup palette in a zippered patent hot-pink pouch

CRYSTAL CLEAR. Three 15-ml pocket-size eau de toilette sprays by Cristalle Chanel

Stuff light, travel easy

By Cheche V. Moral

AH, the many horrid tales of the excess baggage. Load up an entire suitcase with shampoos and makeup and your vacation is over before you even leave your bedroom.

But there are better ways to stuff your baggage.

Most cosmetic brands offer travel-size packs of their more popular products. Some even have travel sets that come in nifty packaging. (Some are pictured in this page.)

Shampoos, body lotions and other hair and skincare products come in tiny tubes, bottles or sachets. Mini soaps and facial washes come in solid or liquid forms in their own fuss-free containers.

Be on the lookout for cosmetic/toiletries promo giveaways and gift packs that contain miniature versions of your favorite products. Also, starter kits for skincare products contain miniature portions. They always come in handy during travels.

Longer holidays may require more ammo, so if you think the contents of travel-size kits won't last you for the duration of your trip, you may find tiny refillable plastic containers (available in drugstores, cosmetic stores and supermarkets) very reliable. They come in different sizes, so it's good to have an estimate of how much you will actually need.

If your destination is the beach, it would be prudent to bring a good conditioner to combat the damaging effects of sun and salt. But not even a week in Boracay would require you to take a whole liter-bottle of conditioner.

It's also important to put your toiletries in Zip-lock bags if you're taking a plane as some containers expand and burst in cabin pressure. Finding your clothes covered in sticky gunk and goop is no way to start a fun summer holiday.

If you can't carouse on the beach without your makeup on, go ahead and bring some makeup. But take only the basics, like a single makeup palette, perhaps. Ditto for makeup brushes, emergency-repair nail kits and other essentials.

Don't fill one suitcase with everything on your vanity dresser. If you have to bring a scent, take only a pocket-size (15 to 30 ml) eau de toilette or fill a small refillable spray bottle with your favorite cologne.

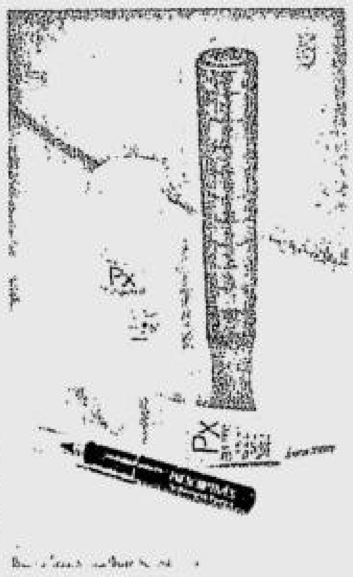
Holidays are about unburdening yourself and taking things easy. Paying attention to tiny details like the right size and amount of toiletries to bring can spell a difference. If you follow the .way of the wise, you will leave enough room in your suitcase for souvenirs and *pasalubongs*—and have no less than the grandest time.

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

The key to a swell summer outing is not to overstuff your baggage

BRUSH UP. Bobbi Brown's travel brush kit has one each for the cheeks, lips and eyes. The neat patent leather container has a mirror and space for one lipstick, and fits in your hand.

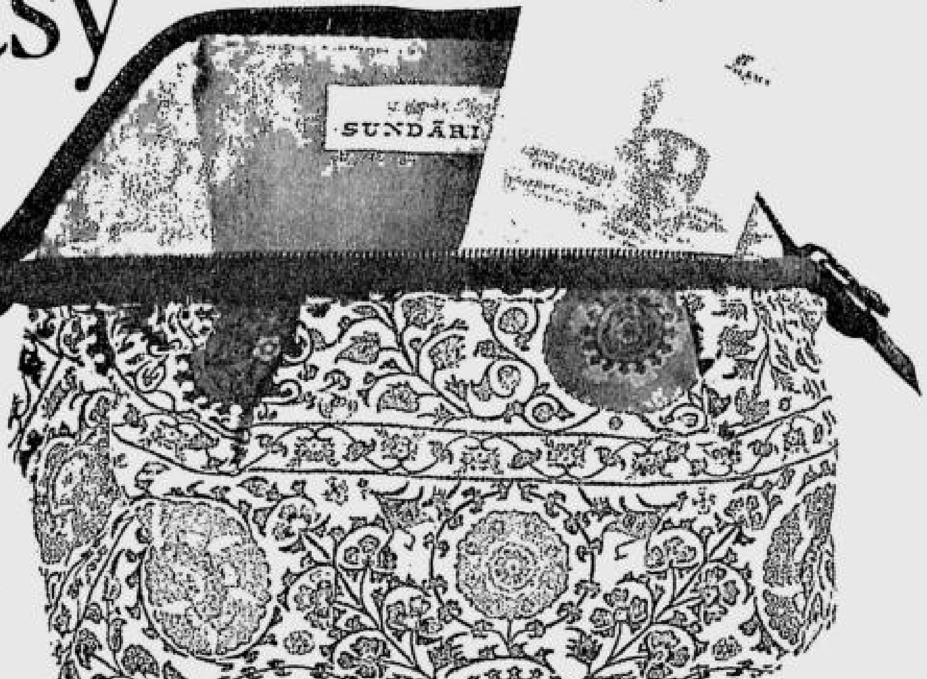
FOR THE BATH GOURMAND. Laura Mercier's Body & Bath Travel Collection contains a luxury soap, honey bath and body lotion from the Collection Gourmande.

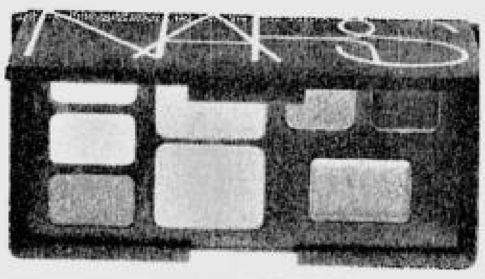


JUST FOR YOU. Prescriptives custom-blend makeups has travel-size eye makeup remover, mascara, eye cream and eye pencil

TOUCH ME NOT. Or yes, with Sisley for sensitive skin's starter kit, which has a day cream, facial cleanser, toner, eye cream and night cream

SUPERMODEL-SLASH-YOGI. Christy Turlington's Ayurvedic-based Sundari cosmetic line has a pretty travel pouch containing a facial cleanser, moisturizer and essential oil.





FOR THE MAKEUP JUNKIE PINAY. Three eye colors, two for the cheeks and three for the lips in NARS' makeup palette

TWEAK 'EM. Laura Mercier's Eyebrow Kit has tweezers by Tweezerman, eyebrow gel, triangular eyebrow pencils, double-ended grooming/eyebrow brush, sharpener and mascara, and room for your own eye makeup.

HAND AND FOOT FETISH. L'Occitane Hand & Foot Care Kit includes travel-size tubes of softening hand scrub, hand cream, exfoliating foot care and foot cream.

Spritz on a little summer

These light, nature-inspired scents will complete the season's wardrobe

From page M8

bring you to a paradise within yourself. We don't know about that—but this fragrance does smell pretty good. (P2,400, 30 ml; P3,200, 50 ml; P4,500, 100 ml)

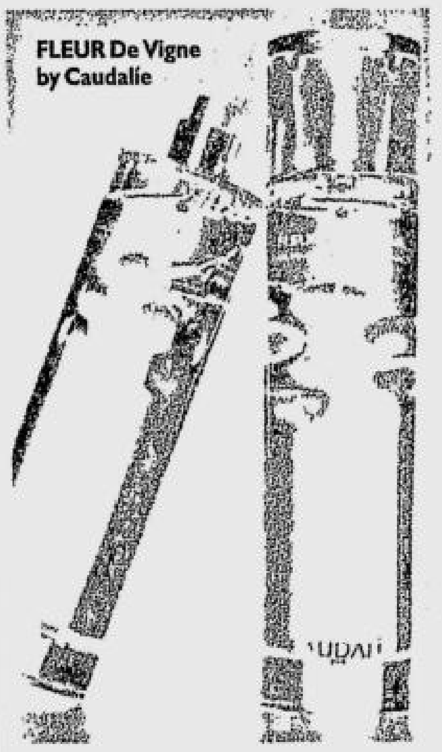
Island Kiss by Escada. Every year, for over a decade now, Escada blesses the world with a limited-edition fragrance for summer. This year, they bottled the sweet smells of tropical fruits to produce scent number 14—Island Kiss. This fragrance brings together the scents of mango, passion fruit, orange, magnolia and white peach. It is flirty, fun, delicious and would make you wish you were on a beach partying. (P2,150, 30 ml; P2,950, 50 ml; P4,000, 100 ml; P3,200, 50 ml with lotion and bag; P3,200, 50 ml with body gel and bag)

Eau Tranquility by Clarins. Fresh. Clean. Light. Clarins' treatment fragrance maximizes the fragrant and treatment properties of plants. Basil, Florentine Iris, Cedarwood and Siamese Benzoin come together in a scent that promises to release tension. For the stressed, this is manna from heaven. Prices available upon request.

Eau De Campagne by Sisley. This unisex scent is very green, fresh and grassy. It invokes memories of playful summer afternoons. (P3,000, 50 ml; P4,400, 122 ml; P7,500, 250 ml)

Tommy Jeans. Tommy Girl lost its novelty when the whole world—from your aunt to your nephew's girlfriend—started wearing the scent. But here's another Tommy Hilfiger fragrance to get addicted to. The Tommy Jeans Fragrance Collection is light and citrus-y, combining a mixture of tangerine, orange and grapefruit. Take the name seriously. This scent promises to give the wearer a carefree, relaxed feeling—just like your favorite jeans. We wouldn't disagree. (Prices available upon request.)

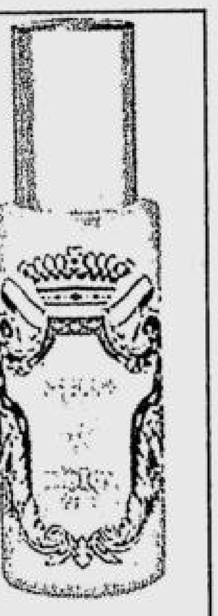
E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph



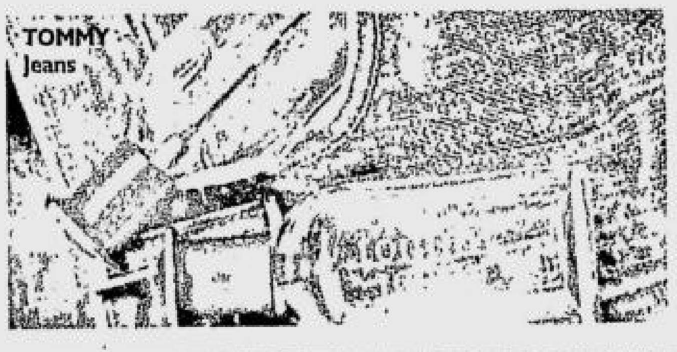
FLEUR De Vigne by Caudalie

ACQUA Di Genova

ACQUA DI GENOVA



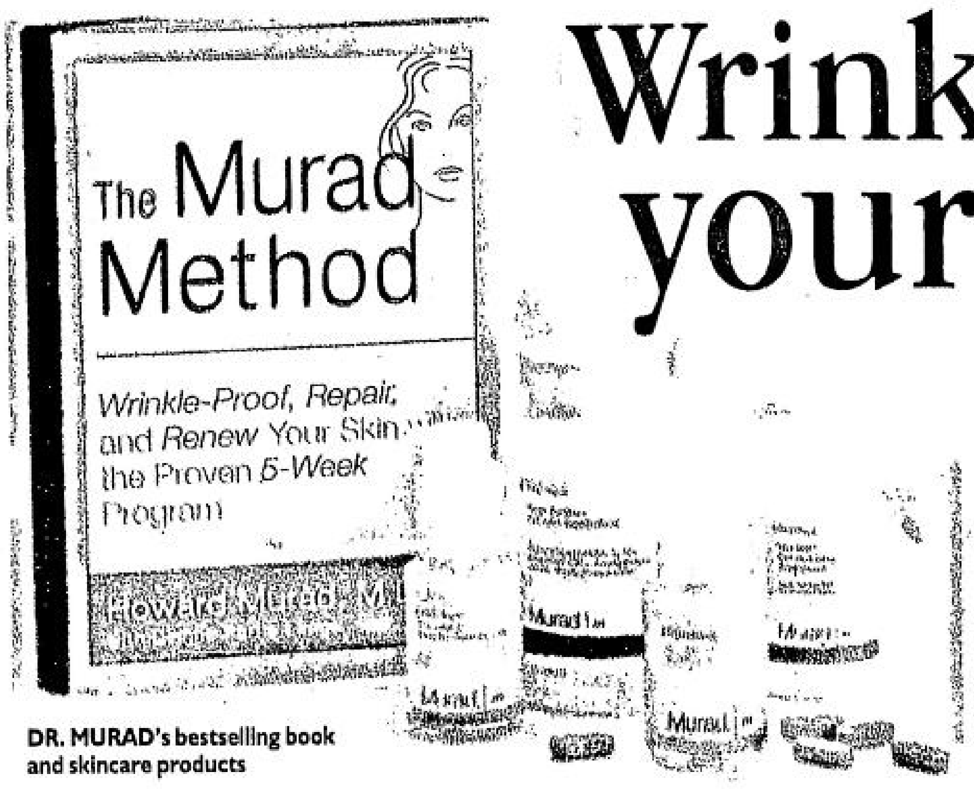
EAU De Campagne by Sisley



TOMMY Jeans

Wrinkle-proof your skin

These days, you no longer have to go out in the sun without adequate protection


The Murad Method
Wrinkle-Proof, Repair, and Renew Your Skin with the Proven 5-Week Program
Howard Murad, M.D.
Murad

DR. MURAD's bestselling book and skincare products

RENOWNED dermatologist Dr. Howard Murad

By Vangie Baga-Reyes

BY NOW we already know what dermatologists and newspaper and magazine articles say about how to ward off wrinkles and skin cancer: Apply sun protection daily, wear a hat and other protective clothing, and avoid sun exposure between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

In his book "The Murad Method: Wrinkle-Proof, Repair, and Renew Your Skin with the Proven 5-Week Program," renowned dermatologist Howard Murad pointed out that one of the most obvious examples of the inflammatory process at work was sunburn. Fortunately, these days, you no longer have to go out in the sun without adequate protection.

But Dr. Murad said prevention should start as soon as possible. "You need to start immediately protecting yourself from ultraviolet (UV) radiation. Exposure to UV radiation triggers a panoply of cellular defenses under the skin."

There are three types of radiation in the ultraviolet spectrum of sunlight: ultraviolet A (UVA), ultraviolet B (UVB) and ultraviolet C (UVC). Rays are categorized according to their wavelengths, which also determine how deeply they penetrate the skin.

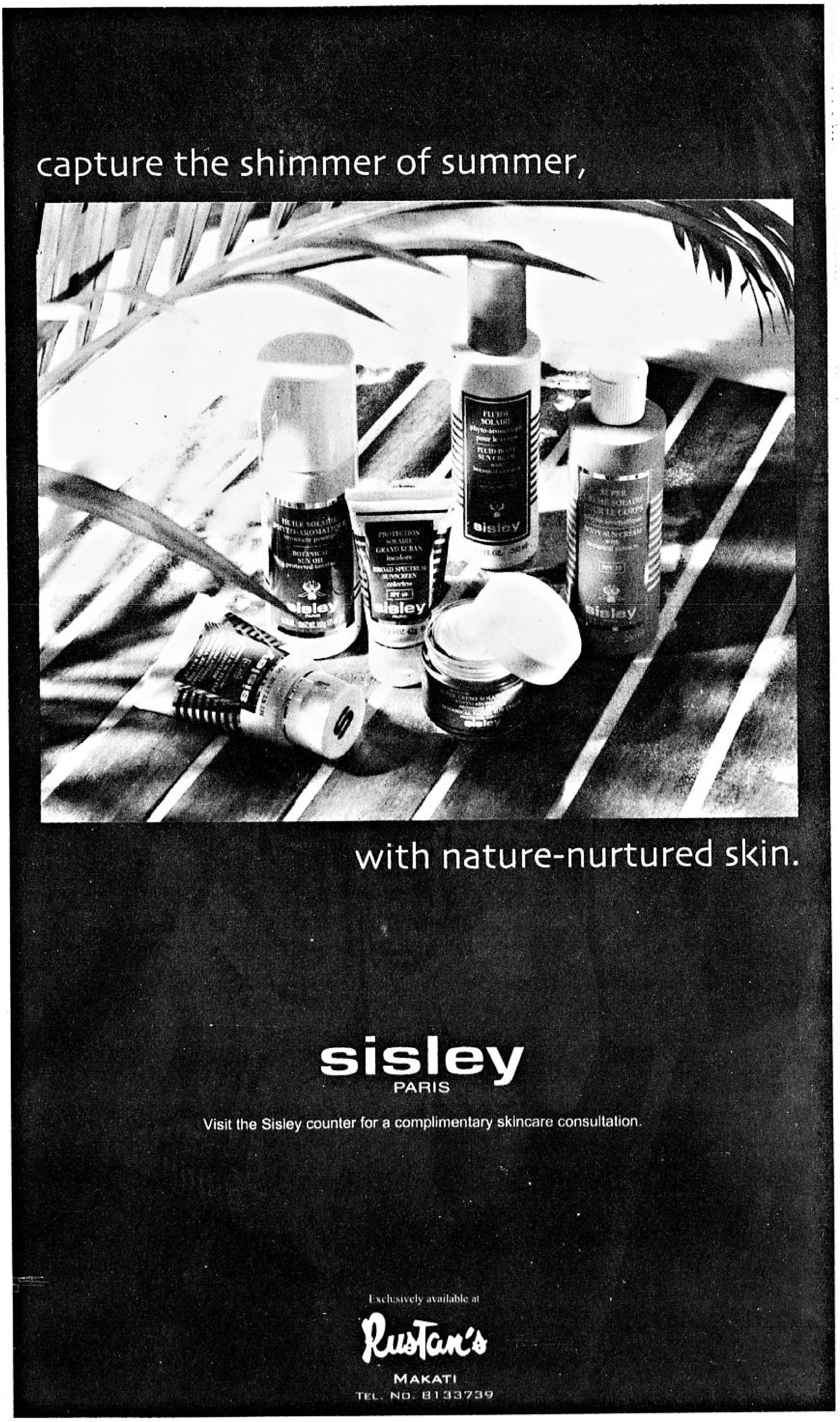
Dr. Murad said the wavelength of UVA was the longest. The ray passes through the skin down to its lower layer, the dermis. UVB rays, the middle wavelength of the ultraviolet spectrum, are mostly filtered by the ozone layer. However, those that do reach the earth can penetrate the epidermis, the skin's outer layer, and permanently injure developing cells. The gradual loss of the ozone layer implies more and more UVB radiation now reaches the earth than, say, two decades ago. UVC rays have the shortest wavelength and don't

WRINKLE-PROOF/M5

All Skin Types
3 Hydrate I Protect
Shield face and body with this powerful, full-spectrum protector for active lifestyles
Murad.

MURAD Waterproof Sunblock SPF 30 for Face and Body (top) and Murad Hydrating Sunscreen (below)

Murad
Murad


capture the shimmer of summer,

with nature-nurtured skin.

sisley
PARIS

Visit the Sisley counter for a complimentary skincare consultation.

Exclusively available at
Rustan's
MAKATI
TEL. NO. 8133739

Summer makeup that stays put

Awake cosmetics are your secret weapon against the sweltering heat

Text by Kinny Salas
Photos by Randy Hormillosa

KEEPING your makeup from sliding all over and off your face during summer is one mean feat. Layering it on thick for staying power is not an option because warm weather calls for sheer finish with lighter color and texture.

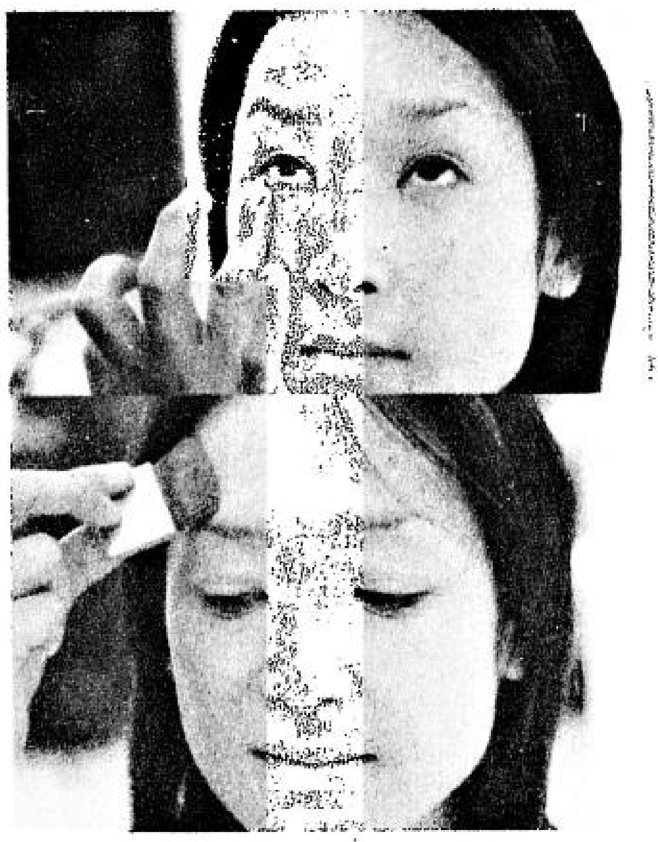
Makeup artist Pen Logan from Essenses Rustan's shows us the way to summer makeup, using Awake cosmetics' Spring colors collection. Awake is the elite cosmetic line from the Japanese giant company Kosé.

The face for this step-by-step guide belongs to 34-year-old Keiko Ozaeta, who is 100-percent Japanese. Educated in the United States and Canada and married to a Spanish-Filipino, she is the perfect model for Awake cosmetics, the brand with Japanese roots but Western image.

Until March 31 or till supplies last, for every P2,500 worth of Awake Stardom makeup you purchase at Rustan's, you can get a lip palette for free. Colors are mauve pink and mocha brown with lip brush included.

Step 1: Skincare

Keiko's makeup was removed thoroughly with Awake's fluid cleanser then toned and moisturized to prep it up for the summer makeup. Keiko is an Awake user and she uses its products on her face. "It's the reason I don't look 34 because I am very particular, as with most Japanese women, with my skincare." She especially encourages the non-greasy Exbright moisturizing fluid and sunblock which saves this avid golfer from aging prematurely. Sunblock gets blotted by tissue as the last step to remove excess.



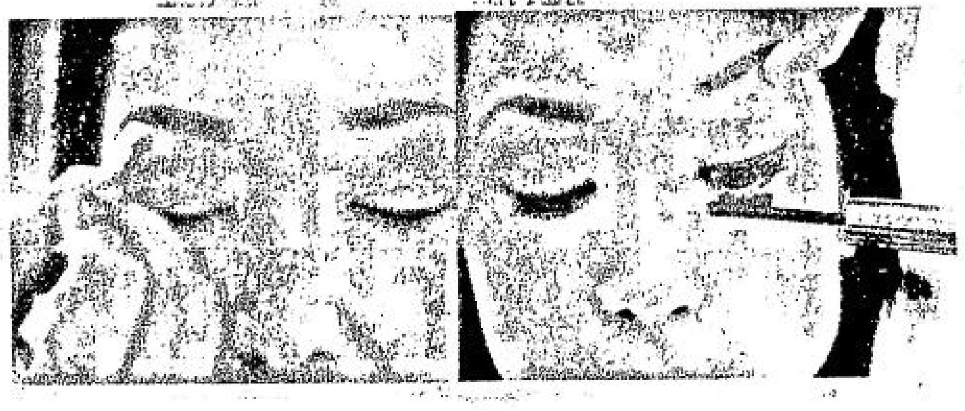
Step 2: Creating perfect-looking skin

Primer: Perhaps the best discovery in the dawn of the 21st century. Pre-foundation primer is the key to sheer light makeup's staying power. A good primer is colorless or only slightly tinted, controls oil but hydrates skin. It allows everything to grab on and stay put. The fresh look is sustained with less touch ups required.

Foundation: It's the secret to perfect-looking skin. It should cover slight imperfections and discolorations to even out the tone without looking heavy. Awake's Skin Renovation foundation is great for oily skin; it minimizes pore size and lifts skin for a firmer, younger look.

Concealer: Perfect for covering up what foundation can't handle such as dark circles around the eyes, freckles and broken capillaries on the face.

Colors: From the Stardom Spring Collection



Step 3: Eyes

The most complicated area to make up. Eye shadow colors: Base (lids to brows)—Winter White; Lids—Begonia Rose; and Contour and lower lid eyeliner—Phantom Brown and upper lid pencil liner in Pure Black. Eyebrows: pewter gray pencil and brow powder. Mascara: The two-step Stardom mascara in black is the star product. It lengthens, thickens, defines then curls the straightest and thinnest of lashes without the need for a lash curler. The other side sets the entire look.

Step 4: Lips

Awake's hydro lip balm is applied to dry lips to ensure an even smooth application before any color. Proportional lip pencil in 04 is a neutral-colored lip primer that allows lipstick to stay on without drying lips unlike your regular lip liner. Lipstick: Stardom's Copper Flash (rust shimmer shade) is a creamy formula that lasts.

Step 5: Blush

Papaya Whip is a peachy shade that looks especially flattering on yellow toned Asian skin tones. Applied on the apples of the cheeks it makes Keiko glow. The Sandy Brown shade is used to contour the jaw line for a softer look.

Step 6: Loose powder

Stardom Loose Powder seals the whole look, including the mistakes, so be sure you double-check the made-up face before applying the loose powder. Awake's Stardom Loose Powder is made of 80-percent water so it feels cool when applied which makes it perfect for summer refresher touch ups.

MAKEUP: PEN LOGAN WITH AWAKE BRAND MANAGER REIKO ISHIZAWA AND KOSE/AWAKE CHIEF INSTRUCTOR OF BEAUTY HIFUMI URATANI
MODEL. KEIKO OZAETA

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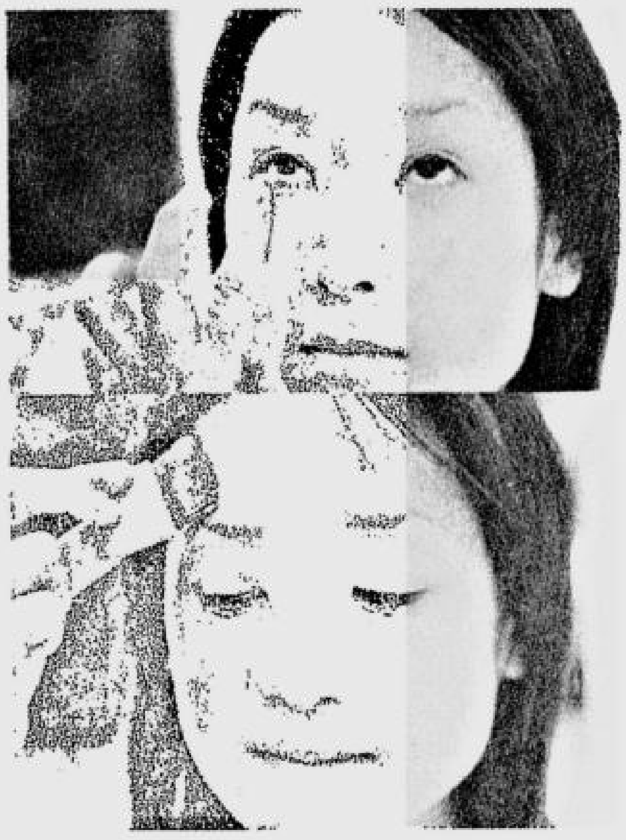

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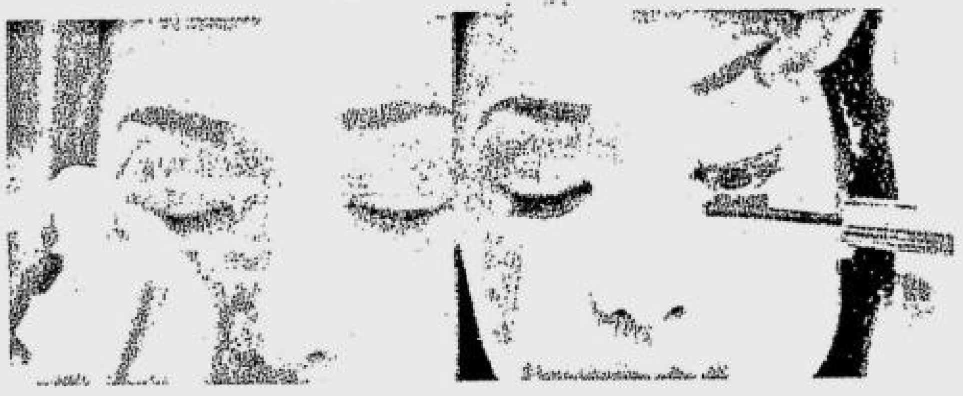

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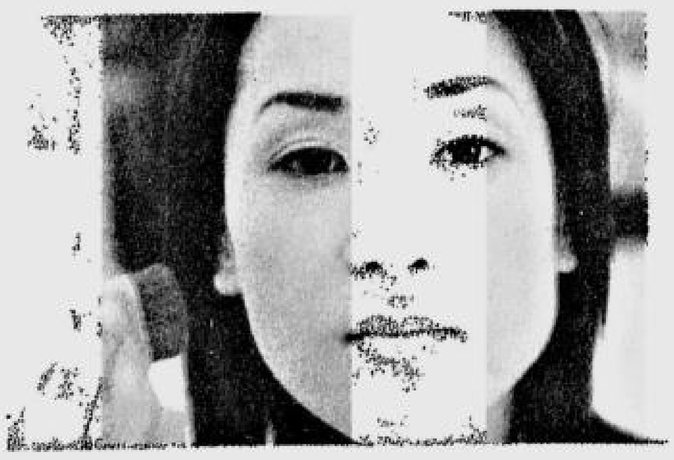

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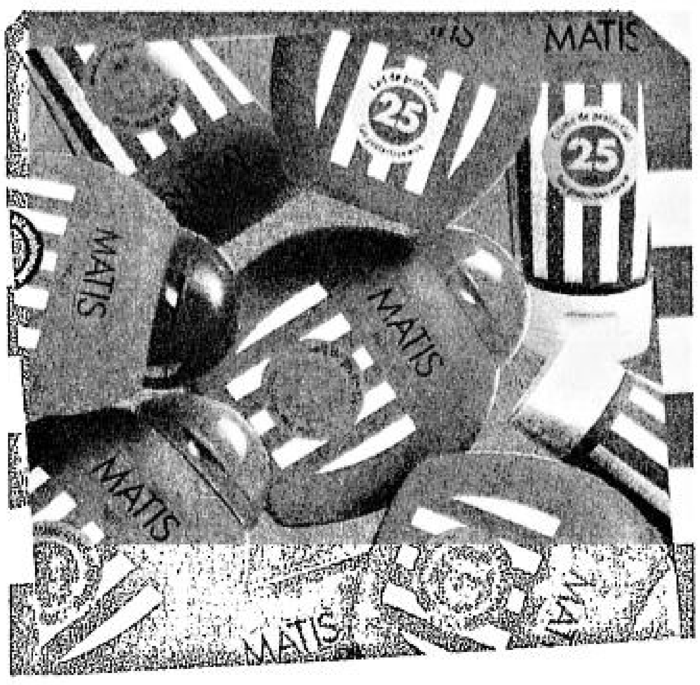
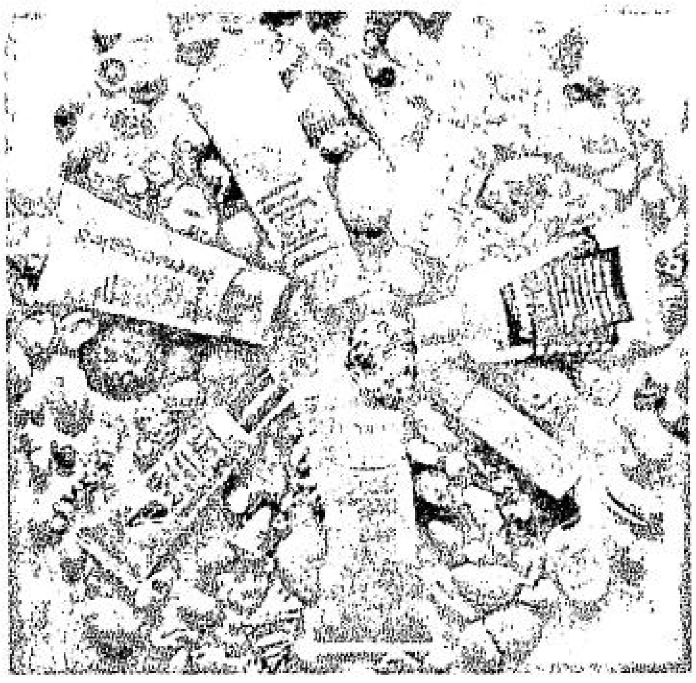
MAKEUP PEN LOGAN WITH AWAKE BRAND MANAGER REIKO ISHIZAWA AND KOSE AWAKE CHIEF INSTRUCTO-OF BEAUTY HIFUMI URATANI MODEL KEIKO OZAETA

SISLEY'S Broad Spectrum Sunscreens help block out the sun to minimize its harmful effects on the skin.



MATIS products offer a wide range of textures and protections for all skin types and all complexions.



DERMALOGICA skincare products range from cleansers, conditioners and moisturizers to masques and solar defense creams.

Wrinkle-proof. . .

From page M3

injure the skin.

Dr. Murad said UVB rays were also called "sunburn radiation" because they usually caused erythema or redness of the skin due to the dilation of blood vessels. Usually it takes six hours before the redness becomes noticeable.

UVA can cause redness, too, but only at about a thousand times the dose of UVB. But the energy of UVA is much more potent than UVB, and the rays penetrate deep into the dermis. Even when it doesn't cause redness, UVA may be more harmful than UVB, since the dermis cannot regenerate itself continually like the epidermis.

Protective steps

By taking protective steps against these rays, Dr. Murad said you would be making an effort to reverse sun damage.

"Because ultraviolet radiation is such a powerful aging accelerator, sun protection is a crucial wrinkle fighter. Some of the damage done in the past can be repaired with proper hydration and topical and internal antioxidants, collagen-builders, and anti-inflammatory agents, but nothing can restore youth back to the skin if it's not protected from further injury," Dr. Murad wrote.

Sunscreens, he added, protect the skin by blocking or absorbing the sun's rays. Their active ingredients will protect you from the burning UVB rays and the more penetrating UVA rays.

One-stop source

There is now a whole array of products that will care for your skin before, during and after exposure to those rays and you can find most, if not all of them, in just one place.

Rustan's Essenses has different varieties of sunscreens, including the formulation by the expert himself, Dr. Murad (check out the photos on this page).

In his book, Dr. Murad listed some essential ingredients to look for when choosing a sunscreen.

"You need a sunscreen that is bolstered with anti-inflammatory agents, hydrating ingredients, and antioxidants," he wrote, mentioning zinc oxide, titanium oxide, benzophenones, cinnamates and pomegranate extract, among others.

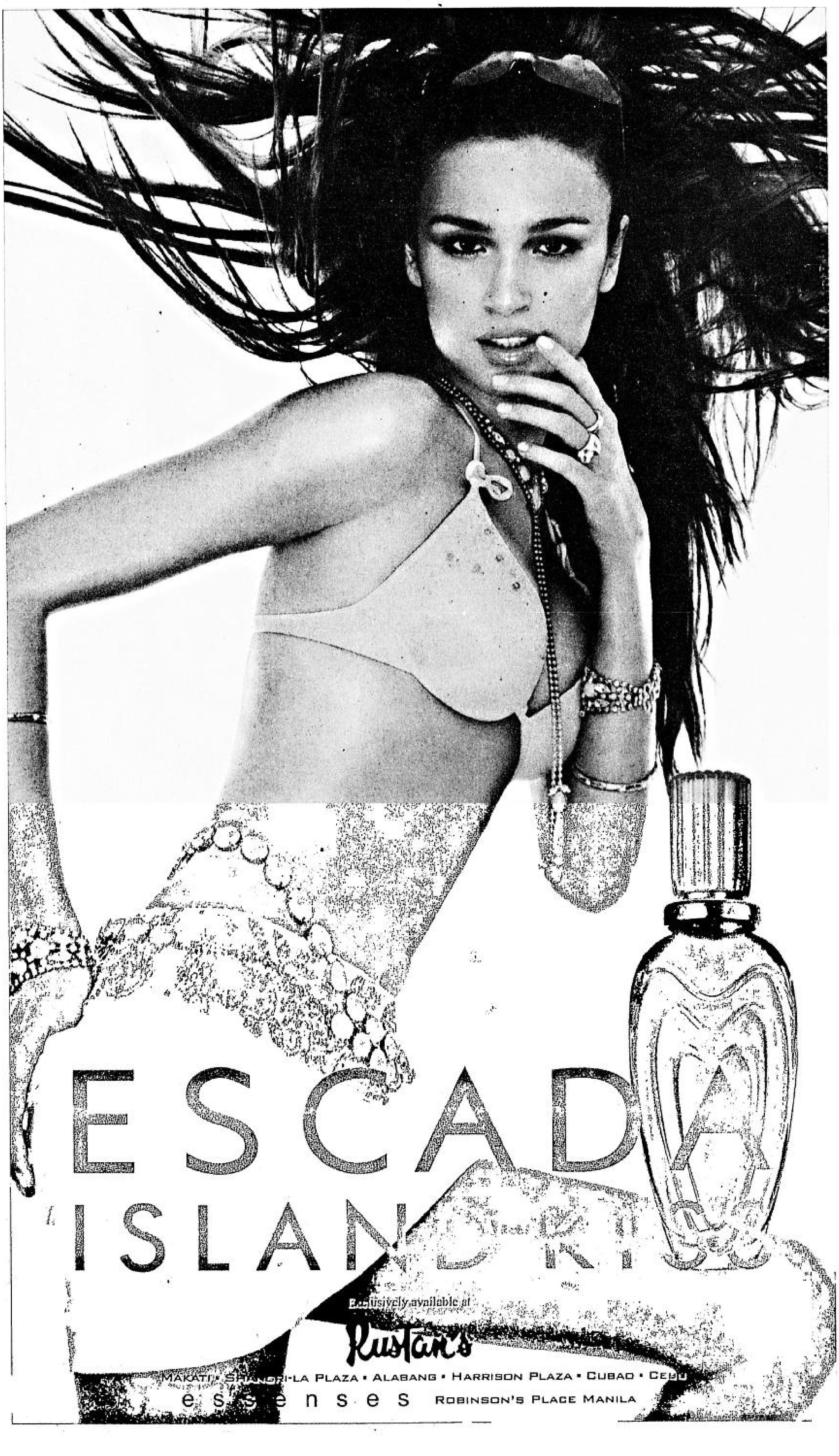
Keeping water in the cells will protect them from breaking down, so look for ingredients such as sodium PCA, lipids and hyaluronic acid. Dr. Murad's favorite anti-inflammatories are zinc and vitamin E. As an antioxidant, pomegranate extract is applied on the skin. Combined with sunscreen, it increases the product's sun protection factor (SPF) by 20 percent.

"Applying sunscreens is important but the challenge is to apply enough, reapply and cover all areas of the skin from head to toe," he affirmed.

The good news is that Dr. Murad himself will be in the Philippines on June 2. He will inaugurate his skin treatment facility on the fifth level of Rustan's in Glorietta, Makati.

CAUDALÍE
PARIS
VINOTHERAPIE
VINOSUN
SOIN SOLAIRE ANTI-AGE
ANTI-AGEING SUNCARE
15
HAUTE PROTECTION
HYPO-ALLERGENIQUE

CAUDALÍE'S Vinosun offers complete protection, reinforced anti-aging and antioxidant action and optimum soothing and moisturizing properties.



THE PHYTOPLAGE haircare line includes High Protection Sun Oil, Hydrating After Sun Mist, Sun Protection Oil Spray, Sun Rehydrating Jelly, Protective Styling Gel, Hair & Body Sun Shampoo and After Sun Repair Mask.

Crown defenses for your crowning glory

By Cheche V. Moral

LATHER. Rinse. Repeat.

But the usual hair-care ritual will not suffice this summer. Like our skin, which we at least doubly protect this summer with the daily use of sunblock, our tresses need extra-protection.

Hair is especially prone to excessive sun exposure and other summer-related factors like saltwater and the pool's chlorinated water. Add to these our often unhealthy diets, excessive blow-drying, chemical-laden hairstyling products and pollution.

L'OCCITANE Olive Hair Care Oil

Here are hair-care products to make summer less punishing for your hair

According to Jenny Teves of the Cosmetics and Toiletries division of Rustan's, there are products that are especially for caring sun-exposed hair. These are formulated with sunscreen. Some contain ingredients that either prevent or restore sun-ravaged hair, or both.

You may need to part with a few extra bucks for the products compared to the usual supermarket brands. But, as damage-prevention goes, you will be saving not just your money but also your crowning glory in the long run.

Elika Rozakis of Korres Natural advises "not to use oily hair products during exposure to the sun, as oils have high thermal conductivity, which causes the hair fiber to overheat, thus leading to dehydration. The sun heats the oil and 'fries' your hair."

Korres, a brand established in 1996 in Athens that makes products from natural ingredients, has a highly specialized and personalized haircare range to suit various hair types, problems and needs.

Korres Red Vine Year Round Sun Protector prevents sun-caused hair discoloration and premature hair aging. It's a daily, no-rinse spray-on lotion that, Rozakis claims, has water-resistant UV filters.

For summer travelers, Rozakis suggests Shea Butter and Vitamins Nourishing Hair Mask and Rice Proteins Serum "to protect hair from splitting."

KORRES Red Vine Year Round Sun Protector

French brand

French brand Phyto has introduced the Phytoplage haircare line that specializes in the "protection and treatment of sun-exposed hair," says brand assistant Jo-Ace Porciuncula. Apart from UV filters, the products have high concentration of plant extracts that retain hair moisture.

Quite popular among swimmers, the Phytoplage High Protection Sun Oil, which works like sunblock, nourishes and moisturizes hair, and protects it not just from the sun but also from saltwater and chlorine. It is also recommended for those with long hair, and is touted as "The Original."

The Phytoplage line also includes Hair & Body Sun Shampoo, After Sun Repair Mask, Hydrating After Sun Mist, Moisturizing Sun Gel, Sun Protection Oil Spray, Sun Rehydrating Jelly and, if you can't resist using styling gunk, Protective Styling Gel.

Combining olive, grape seed, jojoba and wheat germ oils, L'Occitane Olive Hair Care Oil is intended as protective mask prior to bathing in the sea or swimming pool, or as an after-shampoo revitalizing treatment. It

CROWNING/ M7

PHYTOPLAGE Moisturizing Sun Gel

hot, sizzling hues
CHRISTIAN DIOR
Blush Cream
So Brown
NARS
Body Glow
CLARINS
Sweet Sensations
ORIGINS
Brush On Color
Rose Twinkle
MOVIE
Terracota
SISLEY
Sun Glow Pressed Powder
LAURA MERCIER
Bronzing Gel
AWAKE
Exbright Coverage
for summer's first blush
Exclusively available at
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MAKATI • SHANGRI-LA PLAZA • ALABANG •
HARRISON PLAZA • CUBAO • CEBU
essenses
MAKATI • ALABANG
ROBINSON'S PLACE MANILA

Crown defenses for your crowning glory

From page M6

is said to enhance shine when applied to dry hair.

Another European brand, Sisley, has a deep conditioner especially formulated for dry and damaged hair. Soin Capillaire Apres Shampooing Hair Care Conditioner is used either as a regular after-shampoo conditioner or as a weekly deep mask. The manufacturer says it has silicone oil that smoothes out split ends.

The Italian Acca Kappa brand takes pride in its Sun Hair Care with Monoi de Tahiti range that is said to contain the ingredients used for centuries by the Polynesians in keeping their hair lush, soft and lustrous.

Popular among those who like fragrance-free cosmetics, Clinique has the Dramatic Moisture Intensive Conditioner with Vitamin E and green-tea extract that is said to calm and soothe scalp, and with its avocado oil and aloe gel, repairs hair damage. Super Condition Restoring Conditioner and Gentle Wash Moisturizing Shampoo have glycerin, a humectant that draws moisture to the hair. All of Clinique's hair products are said to contain sunscreen.

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

CLINIQUE hair care
CLINIQUE hair care
super condition
super brillance
CLINIQUE hair care
dramatic moisture
soin intense

CLINIQUE Gentle Wash Moisturizing Shampoo, Super Condition Restoring Conditioner and Dramatic Moisture Intensive Conditioner

SOIN CAPILLAIRE
HAIR CARE CONDITIONER
sisley

SISLEY Soin Capillaire Apres Shampooing Hair Care Conditioner

Fun and flattering makeup colors

INSPIRED by the exuberant palette of Fall couture and the bright hues that illuminated the Spring 2004 runways, Estée Lauder presents Pure Color, a makeup collection that celebrates the spontaneous pleasure of color.

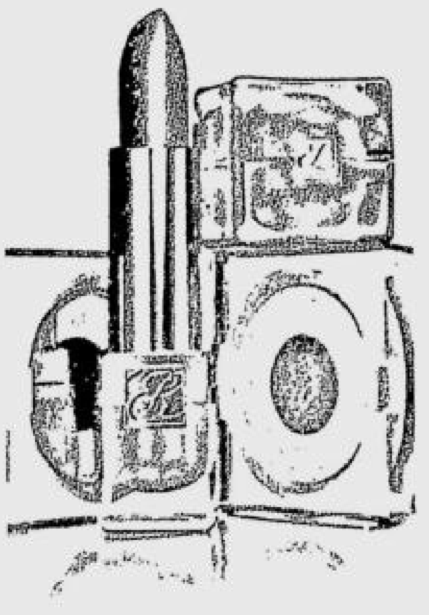
"This is a collection about playfulness and whimsy," says Jorge Serio, Estée Lauder interpretive artist. "Think about when you were a child—you responded instinctively, joyfully to color. These shades make you feel good because they're beautiful. Makeup should be fun, not serious."

The collection features tonally perfect shades in light-grabbing finishes. The palette is delightful and luminous: delicious reds, cool, oceanic blues, a gleam of copper, a shimmer of pearl.

Eyes are lined in burnished copper or ocean-deep blue. Skin radiates with luscious coral warmth. These beautiful, modern hues for lips, eyes, nails and face turn makeup into a sensual pleasure, a visual treat. They are flattering, feminine and, best of all, fun.

Among the highlights are the limited-edition hues of Pure Color Eyeshadow Duo—Moon Dust (P1,500), Waterproof Maximum Curling Mascara (P1,200), Pure Fantasy Illuminating Face Powder (P2,050), Artist's Eye Pencil FantaSticks (P1,150), Pure Color Lip Vinyl (P1,000), Pure Color Crystal Lipstick (P1,000), Pure Color Vinyl Gloss Stick (P1,000) and Pure Color Nail Lacquer Finish (P800).

The collection will be available at Estée Lauder counters beginning April.



ESTÉE Lauder's Pure Color collection

summer heightens the senses.

are those stars in your eyes?

summer maquillage by
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PARIS . 1881

fairytale collection by
laura mercier

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spring/summer collection .04

flirtatious fantasy by
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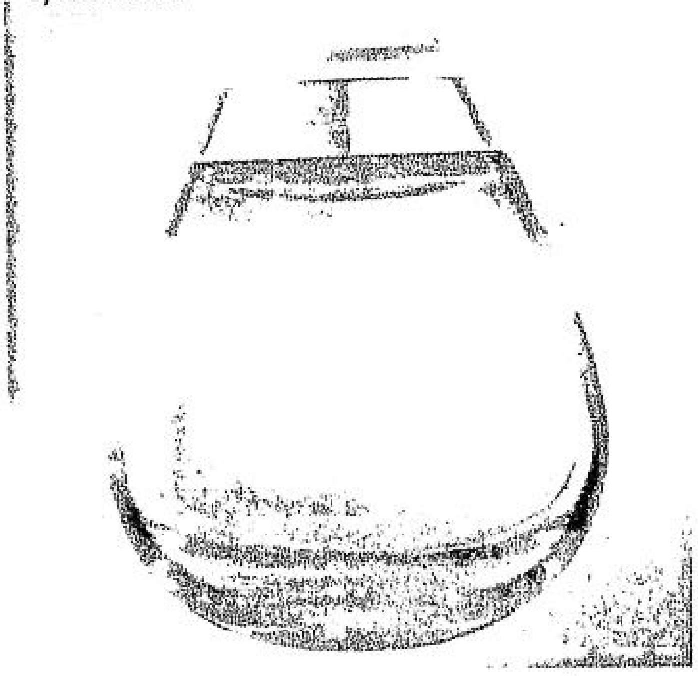


BEYOND Paradise by Estée Lauder

Spritz on a little summer

By Pam Pastor

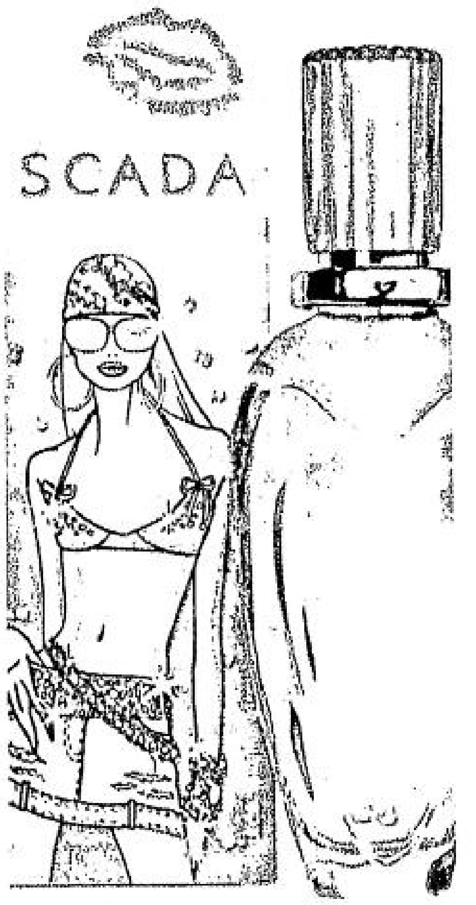
SUNGLASSES. Check. Bikini. Check. Sarong. Check. Shorts. Check. Flip Flops. Check.

Sure, your summer wardrobe's ready. But have you picked out your fragrance for the season?

It's time to abandon your strong and overpowering perfumes. These are the months for nature-inspired, fruity scents that are as light as a summer breeze.

These fragrances inspire visions of sprawling meadows, flowers blooming in all shades of the rainbow, trees waving in the air and starry nights on the beach.

Trade in your old favorites for these discoveries. Your olfactory nerves will thank you for it.



ISLAND Kiss by Escada

Green Tea by L'Occitane. L'Occitane's Green Tea scent has a lot of fans. And why not? The fragrance is pleasant and soothing. The subtle scent of green tea combined with rose and jasmine is refreshing and can last all day. (P1,050, 50 ml; P1,450, 100 ml)

Basil Lemon by Korres. Established in 1996, Korres is a Greek brand which produces herb-based products. Basil Lemon, which comes from their Body Water line, is half perfume and half toner. Incorporating a lot of minerals (sodium, magnesium, zinc and manganese) and pro-vitamin B5, it serves as an all-day body lotion. Don't let the science talk fool you. This scent is delightful—a definite treat not just for the body but for the nose too. (P645, 75 ml)

Fleur De Vigne by Caudalie. Here's a treat from the Cathiard family, the producers of quality Bordeaux wines. Fleur De Vigne pays tribute to the grape blossom, the tiny flower that plays an important part in the vineyard—it signals the autumn harvest for wine growers. Fleur De Vigne is an energizing spray that combines bergamot, grapefruit, mandarin, blackcurrant bud, grape, orange, lemon, sandalwood and cedar. According to its creators, this full-bodied fragrance does not dry the skin and can be worn in the sun. (P1,850, 100ml)

Acqua Di Genova. This fragrance is a classic. Acqua Di Genova was created in 1953 by Sefano Frecceri, a famous distiller and the perfumer of the Royal Household. You may not have been born blue-blooded but wearing this perfume is one way to feel like royalty. And if that's not enough to convince you, this Italian-made scent also won 24 gold medals at 24 exhibitions in Europe. (P2,700, 100 ml; P3,100, 100 ml with atomizer; P4,200, 200 ml; P5,600, 400 ml)

L'eau De L'artisan. Spray on a masterpiece. The makers of L'artisan scents believe that perfumery is an art—and a luxurious one at that. This fragrance is an absolute delight. Dubbed as "a citrus lover's nirvana," this fresh scent is a mixture of mint, basil, lemon, fresh cut grass and seaweed. (P3,950, 100 ml; P2,950, 50 ml)

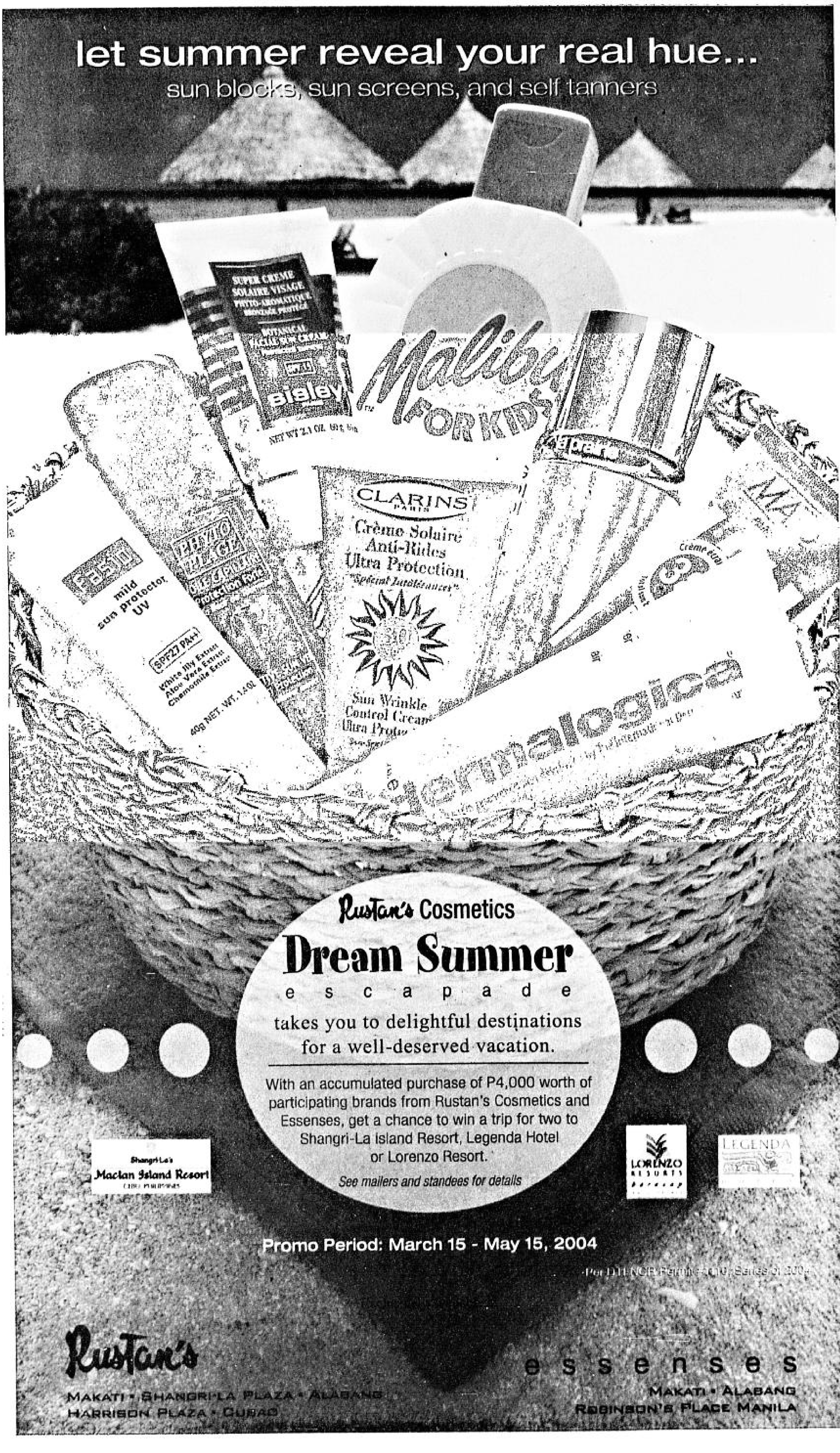
Origins Ginger Essence. The creators of this scent knew they had something going when they combined the spicy fire of ginger and the freshness of bergamot, lemon and lime. They were able to produce the perfect balance—a middle ground for warm and cool, action and serenity, energy and tranquility. This fragrance is sweet and sensual—perfect for cool summer evenings. (P2,200, 50 ml; P3,000, 100 ml)

La Prairie Sea Energy. This is more than just a fragrance. One part fragrance and one part skincare treatment, La Prairie's Sea Energy Cellular Treatment Body Fragrance claims that it can enliven the senses, enhance confidence and envelop the soul by soothing and pampering the skin while revitalizing the psyche, maintaining your skin's smoothness, leaving a light moisture on your skin and protecting it from free radicals. This scent, which is made in Switzerland, puts together marine-derived sea acids, intensive hydrators and emolients, plant extracts and exclusive cellular complex. (P5,000, 100 ml)

Chris 1947. This limited edition fragrance was created to commemorate the birth of Christian Dior's couture house in 1947. The scent is a mixture of cranberries, reeds, grains of paradise, sweet freesia, water violet, sweet pea and the spicy cactus flower, which the creators believe is the recipe for a fragrance that is rebellious and romantic, pink and unconventional. They say Chris 1947 is perfect for rock 'n roll princesses. We say it's a bouquet in a bottle. (P2,200, 50 ml)

Beyond Paradise by Estée Lauder. UK's Eden Project, the largest greenhouse in the world, has already been called "The Eighth Wonder of the World." This 60-meter-deep, 15-hectare former china clay pit is home to spectacular global gardens that have become a resource for research and education. Estée Lauder was given the opportunity to explore scents from the array of plant life that the Eden Project has nurtured. It was from there that the creators of Beyond Paradise found their five basic ingredients—Eden's mist, crepe jasmine, natural plum blossom, golden melaleuca bark and mahonia japonica. This scent promises to intoxicate your senses and

SPRITZ · M2



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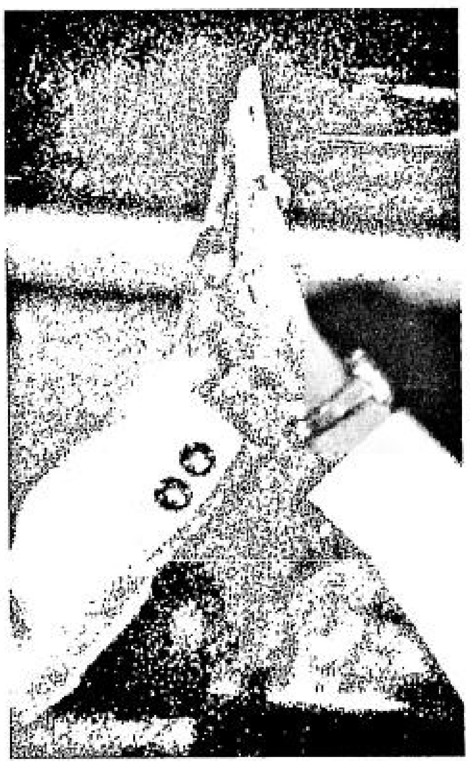

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- ☐ At least four (4) years experience in managing International Outbound and Inbound programs
- ☐ Excellent interpersonal skills
- ☐ Familiarity with the Federal Communications Commission and Direct Marketing Association regulation

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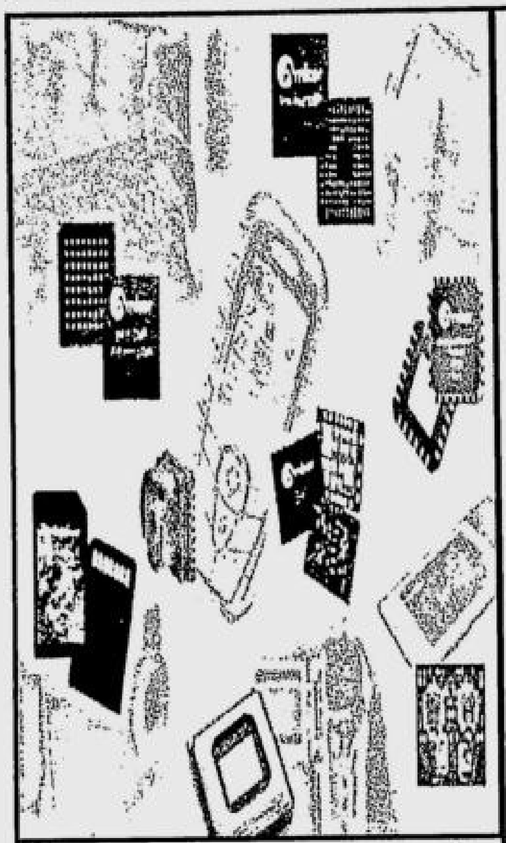

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- assists in the planning for and provides necessary training to HQ staff in using the GL inquiry functions;
- coordinates and provides required information to various GL users in accordance with established procedures; and
- performs any other assignments as required.

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- good understanding of accounting policies and practices, as well as general policies, procedures, guidelines and reporting requirements prevalent in multilateral institutions;
- excellent oral and written skills in English, especially, ability to document workpapers in a logical and concise format;
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Human Resources Division,
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HR FOCUS

Former broadcaster's gift of gab proves handy in HR work

By Candy G. Villanueva

WITH a gift for gab and an unquenchable thirst for travel, Nuj Sugue channels all his restless energies in trying to build a better relationship between management and employees. As recruitment and internal communications manager for Sun Cellular, Sugue's responsibility goes beyond servicing staffing requirements. It is also on this manager's shoulders to build better labor relations and ensure employee well being.

Joining in the fray for the top spot in mobile telecommunications, Sun Cellular is the newest addition in the conglomerate of the JG Summit Group.

In keeping with the trend, JG Summit joined the wireless industry battle and launched Sun Cellular last year. Within less than a year, Sun Cellular has won over more than 700,000 subscribers. The new company aims to increase its subscriber base to two million by yearend and to increase by twice its cell sites nationwide.

With the company being new to the business, Sugue takes on the challenge with zest. "Being new, one is faced with the opportunity to build from scratch. You build your human resources, you build the organization. You build structures. It would definitely be exciting to see as the company takes a more concrete form."

Broadcasting as a start

It is curious how a former disc jockey shifted from spinning records to weaving people relations. "Working in HR came by accident," recalls Sugue. Graduating from a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication in San Sebastian College, Sugue was naturally set on the broadcasting path. Immediately after graduation, Sugue tested his communication skills as a newscaster for Nation Broadcasting Corporation, a Manila-based radio network.

After a year of hobnobbing with political figures and anchoring news segments, Sugue decided to take on a quieter role. He taught English 101 and Mass Communication Theories at Olivarez College. Several years after, he moved to Bangkok, Thailand where he was formally introduced to the art of human relations.

Introduction to HR

"That time, I was not really very familiar yet with how the business worked," confesses Sugue. He retells how he was told that his job at Boyden Asoociates (Thailand) Ltd., a headhunter firm, would simply entail interviewing candidates for English proficiency. "Much later, I found myself being given tasks to write interview evaluations of candidates, preparing search proposals and job specifications for clients and selecting the best candidates for the clients' needs. I guess I was banking on my interviewing skills that I learned while still a radio newscaster. It also helped that my

English communication skills have been honed through practice both in school and in the broadcasting business."

Unknowingly, Sugue was slowly being lured into HR management. But it didn't take long before his restless nature took him back to broadcasting again. At You and I Corporation in Bangkok, Sugue handled a music program on weekends as a radio disc jockey. "I never really looked at them as work because one was totally different from the other. The weekend job became some sort of a breather from the humdrum of office work."

At home

Eventually, his dream of exploring the more than 7,000 islands of the Philippines brought him back home. He took on several positions without straying far from the field of communications and human relations. "I have devoted the most part of my career in the field of human resources and I already feel very much at home with what I am doing right now," shares Sugue. " I also would like to revive my career in media where I feel there is equal degree of excitement and challenge."

At a young age, Sugue's life is already a colorful tapestry of experiences working abroad and trying out different fields of business. He worked on various industries from a semiconductor plant to an executive search firm.

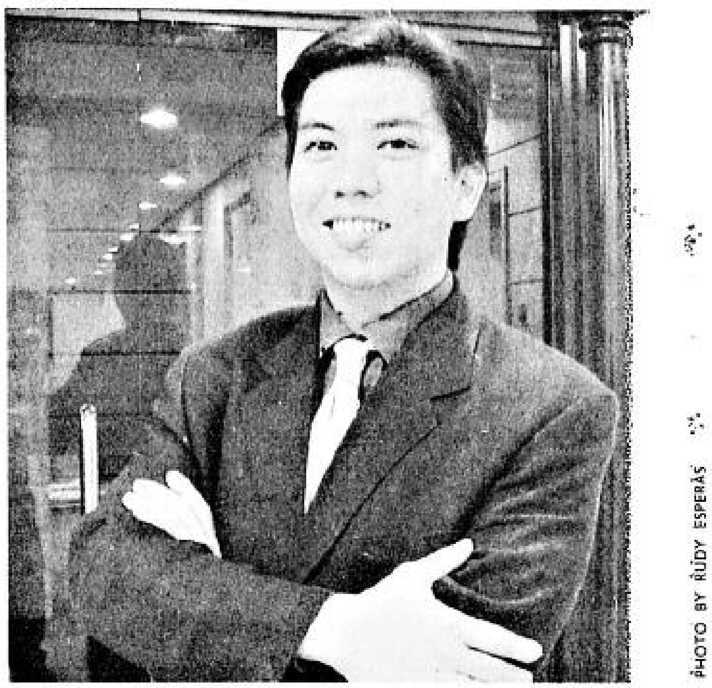
He also dabbled into oversees recruitment and garment manufacturing then briefly served for the Philippine Hospital Association. As disc jockey, a news reporter or a recruitment manager, in each endeavor, Sugue values people interaction. "I love learning from the experiences of the people I interview. I love the fact that I am able to engage a person to talk about himself while being able to extract the information I require to evaluate whether he is a close fit to our vacant requirements."

He also enjoys engaging in the communication process between management and employees. "Setting these up has made me realize that I am not merely doing a job but am, in fact, contributing to the company's improved labor relations."

Nation building

Most importantly, the Sun Cellular manager sees his job as a means to help build a better nation. "You have to think of it from a wider perspective. You have to see it as your role in nation-building," explains Sugue. " When there's communication, there's better understanding; when there's understanding, there's acknowledge-ment of one's importance in the company. When one feels important, the more that he strives to excel by contributing to the success of the company." According to Sugue, a successful company means stability and growth, which translate to more jobs and a better economy.

Guided by his noble mission, Sugue continues to sharpen his expertise in the hope of someday owning an HR organization. Media is also not far from his mind. But for now, his days off are spent on quiet moments by the beach reading the latest John Grisham novel.



NUJ Sugue

PHOTO BY RUDY ESPERAS

The best things in life aren't things

By Dr. Tony Alessandra

IT'S been said that success is getting what you want, but happiness is wanting what you get. Or to put it another way: perspective, next to money, is the easiest thing to lose.

So, by all means, seek to increase your charisma. Try to become the most effective person you can be. Work at making a good first impression and projecting a positive image—but also try to retain self-awareness.

Look around you; think how you appear to others; be alert to the impression you're creating, or trying to create. If you try too hard to impress, or make a big to-do of the grand gesture, or come on too strong or too insensitively, you'll often end up creating a negative impression.

The best impression and the surest way to charisma often just means putting others first. Folks with the most effective images often are those who are the least obtrusive about it. In fact, sometimes it's a simple act or gesture of courtesy—like announcing your first and last name when you see someone who may possibly have forgotten them—that burnishes your image, that really sets you pleasantly apart. Or maybe it's a short note of thanks for some favor. Or saying something nice and genuine about someone in front of his or her boss.

If never made, these gestures probably wouldn't be missed; that's why they're so obvious when you make them. In other words, being a genuinely good person, who cares about others and who does things because they are the right things to do, may be the ultimate key to increasing your personal magnetism or charisma.

Always do right because, as Mark Twain said, that will gratify some people and astonish the rest.

(Visit Dr. Alessandra's web site at www.alessandra.com.)

Visit us at the Megaworld JobFair March 31 to April 3

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General Requirements
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- Filipino citizens or holders of relevant residence status
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- Call center experience preferred
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Sales Executive

Conduct outbound phone sales to businesses and consumers in a high-energy, positive, state-of-the-art work environment offering a variety of products and services on behalf of Epixtar's clients.

With the support of ongoing training and scripted materials; establish customer needs, describe products and services, complete sales transactions and capture necessary customer information.

Work with a focused, results oriented, team environment, while developing your professional sales and customer service skills to enhance your career opportunities. Periodic reviews assess work quality, work efficiency, and communication effectiveness for ongoing performance enhancement.

Team Leader

Supervise phone sales and/or customer relationship management (CRM) activities of 10-12 sales executives. Your mandate will be to drive performance quality within the center on behalf of Epixtar's clients.

Using a variety of statistical reports and real time interaction with the sales executives, you will be charged with constantly improving quality and performance.

The ideal candidate will proactively identify, recommend and implement program enhancements that support client objectives and expectations.

Team Leaders are expected manage and motivate sales executives to help them reach their full potential as Epixtar employees through floor presence (minimum 80%) and one-on-one counseling and coaching.

Program Manager

Manage phone sales and/or customer relationship management (CRM) activities of 10–15 Team Leaders with a span of control encompassing anywhere from 100–150 agents. Reporting to the program manager, you will be responsible for smooth operations among multiple campaigns.

The ideal candidate will have a thorough command of management best practices, extensive call center experience with a detailed understanding of the specifics of outbound/inbound campaign supervision. You will be expected to provide leadership on the floor and ongoing management of your reports with the ability to quickly and effectively resolve day-to-day call center challenges to realize our clients' business objectives.

You will work closely with team leaders to guide them as they contend with their own management responsibilities. To be effective you will engage in extensive one-on-one counseling and coaching.

Sales Trainer

Epixtar's sales trainer will be at the forefront of creating a successful sales team educated in effective sales techniques and call management. The successful candidate will bring extensive practical sales experience together with excellent training methodology and a dynamic personality. This individual will have responsibility to forge a formidable sales force, by providing and teaching the skills and technical know-how to make them top-notch sales executives.

In addition to instructor led training, Epixtar sales trainers will develop and implement training modules, conduct performance reviews, provide periodic updates and refresher classes to continually raise the overall level of effectiveness and efficiency.

Accent Trainer

The American accent trainer will be responsible for developing, delivering, and evaluating accent training and ongoing speech communication refresher courses. This person should have a complete understanding of all facets of English instruction: listening comprehension, speech clarity, reading comprehension, and written expression. With a thorough knowledge of American culture and regional accents, the candidate will present a picture of U.S. life to balance language instruction.

Together with instructor led training, Epixtar Accent trainers will develop and implement training modules, conduct performance evaluation, provide periodic updates and refresher classes to continually raise the overall quality of pronunciation and American English comprehension. The candidate will also be expected to be a subject matter expert on American culture to support ongoing learning opportunities within Epixtar's training environment.

Receptionist

Epixtar needs a receptionist with an outgoing, engaging personality and the ability to direct calls to the appropriate destination within the organization. We believe that an organization is judged by the first impression it makes on a customer, vendor, potential employee or stock-holder.
With the support of ongoing training and scripted materials; establish customer needs, describe products and services, complete sales transactions and capture necessary customer information.

The successful candidate will represent Epixtar as a well-spoken, efficient organization to each and every caller.

AIG Business Processing Services, Inc.

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC. (AIG) is a Fortune 500 company and the world's leading international insurance and financial services organization, with operations in approximately 130 countries.

AIG member companies serve commercial, institutional and individual customers through the most extensive worldwide property-casualty and life insurance networks of any insurer. AIG's global businesses also include financial services, retirement savings and asset management. The common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, as well as the stock exchanges in London, Paris, Switzerland and Tokyo.

AIG Business Processing Services, Inc. (AIG-BPSI) is a business process outsourcing (BPO) company serving the needs of AIG American General Life Insurance Companies. AIG-BPSI invites you to be part of its pioneering and fast-growing operations. Successful candidates will undergo intensive training and can look forward to a financially rewarding and enriching career.

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Dental Claims Processors

Job Requirements

- Graduates of Dentistry
- Responsible for processing claims for dental coverage
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- Computer literate
- Willing to work in the night shift

Executive Assistant

Job Requirements

- Graduate of any college course; advance degree is a plus
- High degree of initiative and resourcefulness, and strong self organization skills;
- Proficiency with Microsoft Word and Powerpoint, and preferably also with Excel;
- Working knowledge of office procedures and filing
- Minimum 5 years experience in secretarial and administrative work, preferably with an international company;
- Provide a wide range of administrative and secretarial support to the President and Vice President of AIG-BPSI.
- Maintain schedules and appointments and arrange meetings and travel of the President and Vice President
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Alabang, Muntinlupa City or email us your resume
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CAI-STA

CAI - STA Philippines, Inc.

Computer Aid, Inc. a US-based company, ventured into partnership with SoftTech Advantage, Inc. to handle its growing demands for better Information Technology Services to the Fortune 500 companies and government agencies across the United States and Europe.

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We are urgently looking for motivated and results-oriented individuals to join our company as:

APPLICATION DEVELOPER

- ✓ Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Computer Science or any related course.
- ✓ With excellent oral and written communication skills.
- ✓ Willing to travel and preferably with valid US B1/B2 visa.
- ✓ Must have at least minimum of 3 years working experience on any of the following technical skills:
  - ✓ **IBM Cobol, MVS/JCL, IDMS/IMS, CICS, EASYTRIEVE experience in TELON is an advantage.** (Code – MF/Cobol)
  - ✓ **IBM Cobol running on STRATUS** (Code – Cobol/Stratus)
  - ✓ **HP3000/Cobol or extensive Cobol experience in manufacturing.** (Code – HP/Cobol)
  - ✓ **.NET Framework, VB.NET, C#, ASP.NET,XML, Crystal Report ver. 8.0/9.0, Object Oriented.** (Code – .NET Developer)
  - ✓ **Powerbuilder 7.0, MS-SQL Server** (Code – PB)

Successful candidates will be involved in full development life cycle of the project from analysis to design, programming, testing, quality control, deployment & systems support

We offer ample opportunities for the individual to grow with the company. A competitive remuneration package will be provided to the successful candidates.

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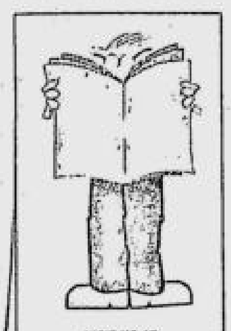
manila_recruitment@compaid.com



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOB Market

TEXT QUIZ

_ and get the chance to win gift certificates from David's Salon!

PROMO MECHANICS:

- Promo period is from February 29 - April 24, 2004
- Promo is open to all Globe, Touch Mobile, Smart and Talk N Text subscribers.
- 5 multiple choice questions will be published every Sunday in the JOB MARKET Section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
- TO JOIN and REGISTER: text TQ JOIN <game code><question number><letter of answer> complete name/complete address/sex(M or F)/age and send to 2966 for Globe and Touch Mobile or 3996 for Smart and Talk N Text.
- After the registration the system will send a confirmation message. After which, a participant may answer the succeeding questions using this format: TQ <game code><question number><letter of answer>.
- A confirmation message will be sent after receipt of every answer.
- Each set of questions will have a different game code.
- All questions will be taken from the job placements and ads at the JOB MARKET Section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
- Each correct answer will earn the participant the corresponding number of raffle entries.
- The number of raffle entries will vary depending on the question answered.
- Once a question in answered correctly, the system will no longer accept any answer for the same question from the same texter.
- A participant who gets to answer all five (5) questions of the week correctly will earn an additional ten (10) raffle entries.
- Entries will only be valid for a specific week and the other weeks will have a different set of entries.
- Answers will be accepted from 12:00 AM Sunday until 11:59 PM of Saturday.
- The cost of sending a text message to this promo is P 2.50 for post-paid and pre-paid subscribers.
- The prize is P 1,000.00 worth of Gift Certificate from David's Salon.
- There will be four (4) weekly winners and eight (8) raffle draws.
- A total of thirty two (32) winners for the duration of the promo.
- Deadline of submission of entries will be at 11:59 PM every Saturday.
- Cellphone numbers and names of participants will be electronically drawn every Monday, 11.00 AM at Buy N' Text office at 88 JS Galsano Bldg., Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City under the supervision of a DTI Representative.
- A participant can only win once per draw.
- All names of weekly winners will be published in the next issue of JOB MARKET Section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
- Prizes will be hand-delivered to the winner.
- Prizes for this promo are tax-free.
- Employees of the Globe Telecommunications, Inc., Smart Telecommunications, Inc., Philippine Daily Inquirer and Buy N' Text Corporation and its agencies as well as relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Second weekly WINNERS of Job Market Text Quiz

Ryan Z. Hembra of Talon 4, Las Pinas City
Rodel P. delos Santos of Infanta, Quezon
Mark C. Bonifacio of Silang, Cavite
Alberto S. Pascual of Balagtas, Bulacan

TO JOIN:

First time participants must have to register by answering the question following this format:

TQ JOIN *<game code><question number><letter of answer> complete name/complete address/sex(M or F)/ age*

Ex: TQ JOIN A1a Rowie A. Balza/143 Empire St. San Lorenzo Village, Makati City/F/22

send to 2966 (Globe and Touch Mobile) or 3996 (Smart and Talk N Text).

After the registration, you may answer the remaining questions using this format:

TQ *<game code><question number><letter of answer>*

Ex: TQ A1c

send to 2966 (Globe and Touch Mobile) or 3996 (Smart and Talk N Text)

Game Code: M

1. It is the dynamic Cebu-based retailer whose ideal is Great Customer Service.
a. Metro Gaisano
b. ShoeMart, Inc.
c. Ayala
d. Robinson's

2. ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK's overarching goal is to ___ poverty and ___ the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.
a. reduce & improve
b. worsen & downgrade
c. alleviate & enhance
d. fight & enrich

3. AMKOR TECHNOLOGY is in need of Managers, Assembly Process Engrs, Senior Planners, Maintenance Engrs, Test Product Engrs, Product Engrs, Test Dev't Engrs, Qual Engrs & ___.
a. Civil Engrs
b. Electronic & Communications Engrs
c. Customer Service Engrs
d. Junior Planners

4. FUJITSU COMPUTER PRODUCTS CORP. is a leading manufacturer of hard disk drives and magneto-resistive ___.
a. wares
b. discs
c. heads
d. wires

5. CAI-STA PHILS., INC. Is in need of an Application Developer possessing a Bachelor of Science in ___ degree.
a. Commerce
b. Computer Science
c. Human Resources
d. Marketing

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3401 Series of 2003

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If you are serious about making money, then **Hinge Media Incorporated,** a dynamic publishing company is here to provide you the opportunity you've been waiting for.

Imagine what we can offer you...

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- ✓ *Unlimited* income
- ✓ *Exciting* bonuses and incentives
- ✓ Quick *promotion* for excellent performance

So if you

- **Are hard-working, energetic, goal-oriented and prefer working at your own pace or schedule**
- **Have an outgoing personality and like meeting with people**
- **Are desiring to earn at least P20,000.00 to P50,000.00 per month**

Then you are cordially invited to our business opportunity briefing every Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 n.n. at Unit 1601 Cityland Herrera Tower, 98 Herrera corner Valero Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City, Philippines. Please confirm your attendance by calling 817 7990 and 813 6848 so we can reserve a seat for you

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Yes, we have a personal stake in your success. Too many of today's business opportunity companies sell you an over-priced, start-up package and then forget you. But were just the opposite, because we don't make a single penny until you sell something! That's why we are interested only in entrepreneurs who are serious. We want to build a long term business with you.

With The Pet Pantry, **EVERYBODY'S A WINNER!**

THEY WIN! Your customer gets the convenience of a great service and high quality dog food at affordable prices. No more lugging big bag of food home and less visit to the vet. It is no secret that Good Quality Nutrition ensures a healthy and happy pet.

YOU WIN! You become your own boss! You create you own personal wealth and financial Independence.

Hard to Beat Ownership Rewards:

- No ongoing leases/ rentals
- No royalties
- High potential with unlimited client prospects
- Grow your own business through repeat clients
- Low overhead Homebased business
- Low start up capital of 350T*
- Protected Territories

*For Metro Manila franchisees. Other areas will be discussed during meeting.

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I am very particular about what I feed my pets. I am also the type of person who cannot sell something that I do not believe in. Before deciding to get a franchise, I tried the Pet Pantry dog food on our dog and the results were great! Aside from the fact that being a franchise owner has proven to be a wise business decision, I am very happy being able to share the Pet Pantry product line with others. With the Pet Pantry Super Premium pet food, I can assure you that your pets will receive only the best. It's a win-win situation!
-Ginnie Gonzalez
The Pet Pantry Bulacan / Pampanga
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"My sales has been growing ever since I started my business 1 year ago and there is still a huge market out there for me to tap. Plus I've got the freedom I need to do what I want. I call my shots. It's a great business.
-Ojay Briones, 27
The Pet Pantry Marikina
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"We put our heart and souls to the success of our franchisees, that's how we've become one of the fastest growing and strongest pet food delivery franchises in the world."

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11:00 to 11:45 AM	STATUS OF THE CALL CENTER INDUSTRY Ms. Guia Bengzon, Operations Director, Call Center Academy	11:00 to 11:45 AM	ENGLISH AND CUSTOMER SERVICE TRAINING Ms. Guia Bengzon, Operations Director, Call Center Academy
2:00 to 2:45 PM	IMAGE ENHANCEMENT Ms. Aida Valles, President, ATY Speakers Network	2:00 to 2:45 PM	DO WHAT YOU LOVE TO DO AND GET PAID FOR IT Ms. Jean Lim, President, Powervision
4:00 to 4:45 PM	TIPS AND TECHNIQUES IN PASSING JOB INTERVIEWS Dr. Jose Nordena, President, Speechpower	4:00 to 4:45 PM	ACQUIRING AMERICAN ACCENT Dr. Jose Nordena, President, Speechpower

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The Pet Pantry

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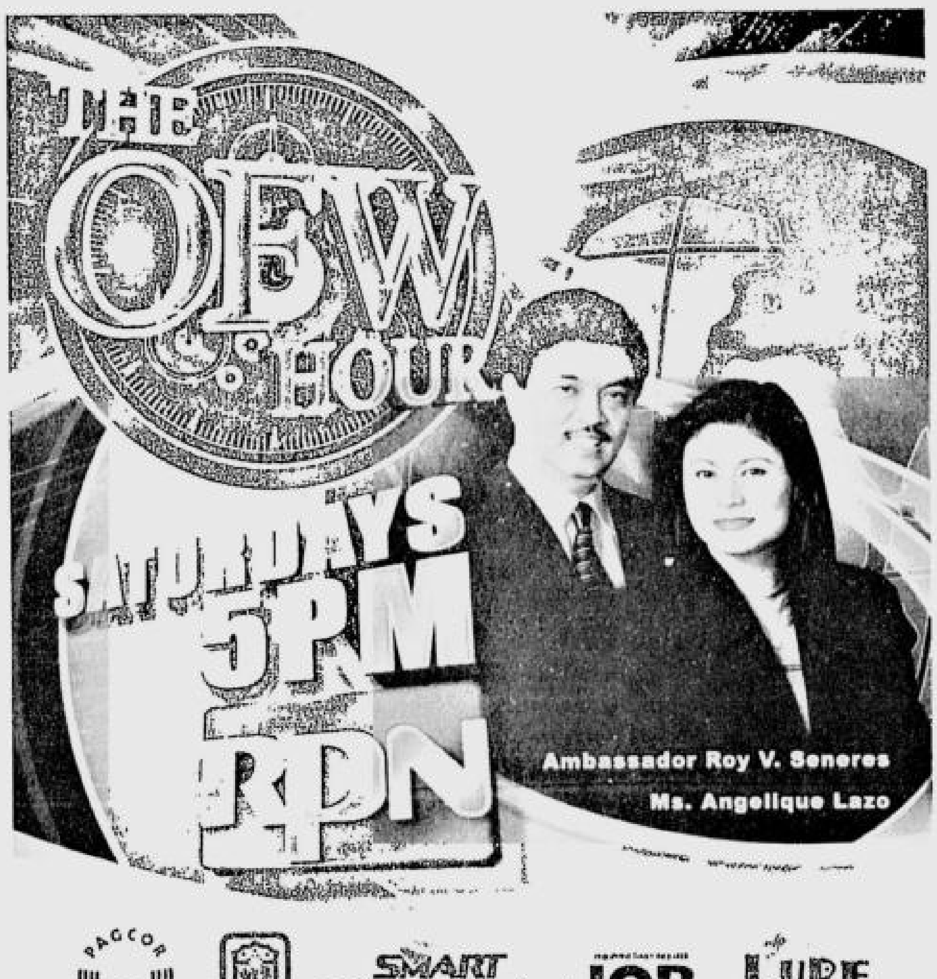
G22 Laguna. H23 Cavite.
Other Provincial areas are still available
Call now during office hours for more information. 712-0124 / 712-0115 mobile # (0916) 5555905 ask for Michael or visit our website at www.thepetpantry.com



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COASTAL
TRAINING TECHNOLOGIES CORP.

Global Leaders In Flexible Learning

Coastal Training Technologies Corporation is a cutting-edge company dedicated to creating award-winning workplace training media that improves the quality of employees' lives around the world.

We are a US Based company establishing Philippine presence currently looking to fill the following positions for our Ortigas call center office:

- ***Sales Manager***
  - *experience in managing in-house account executives*
- ***Inside Account Executives***
  - *experience in outbound business to business sales*
- ***HR Manager***
  - *experience in recruitment, compensation & benefits and on-going proficiency training*

GENEROUS PAY WITH BONUSES!!!

Interested applicants can call us at ***916-1086*** *or* ***916-1087*** *for phone interviews between 8am – 4pm, Monday and Tuesday only.*

MEGACALL INC.

We are a 6-year old Call Center from JAPAN in search of dynamic individual/s to fit in our fast growing organization

5 SALES SUPERVISOR

Aspirant/s MUST be :

- MALE, 26-32 yrs. old
- Strictly w/ 1- 2 years or more related work experience in SALES as a SUPERVISOR
- Experienced working from a CALL CENTER Company is an advantage
- Graduate of any 4 year business course (MARKETING or MANAGEMENT)
- Can speak and understand NIHONGGO is an advantage (not a requirement)
- Flexible, Hardworking, Trustworthy and with new/fresh ideas in SALES

Php **15, 000.00** Basic Salary plus minimum of Php **10, 000.00** commission +++

Interested applicants may call for an appointment on March 29 to 31, 2004 at 811-0479 from 12 nn to 8 p.m. ONLY or apply personally (on business attire) for immediate interview on March 29 to April 2 at 35 F/ Rufino Pacific Tower Ayala Ave., Makati City
Bring COMPREHENSIVE RESUME w/ 2x2 colored picture.

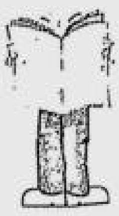
DIVISION ACCOUNTANT

J.T. Zhang is on the move.
Join and give your career a
jump start!

We are seeking accountants that will take over the accounting department that needs and energizing force and a new direction. A CPA graduate would be great, but not as important as a track record of building top notch teams with a desire to succeed. A progressive compensation package will grow as you do. **Send in your resumé if you have a few years in your industry, solid academics and a track record of building awesome theme.**

J.T. Zhang & Co. Inc. Tel. 7126261
561 Mayon St. S.M.H. Quezon City

Where you find the best.



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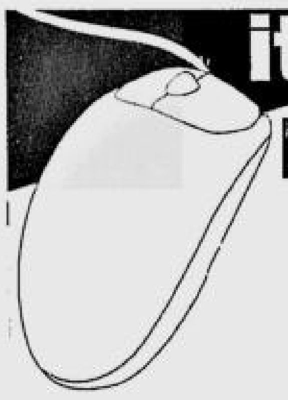
Philippine Daily Inquirer.

JOB MARKET



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Application Consultant
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Intellequity Corp.

Business Development Officer
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Apply Online Now!!
Register at **www.itpros.ph.**

IT JOBS. IT BUSINESS. IT EDUCATION
Showcasing the best of Philippine ICT.

Jardine Davies

Jardine Davies is one of the longest established marketing companies in the Philippines and is the exclusive distributor of several 'world leading' brands of Construction Supplies products, Agricultural and Pest Control Chemicals.

We have strong sales and marketing teams in these competitive fast moving product sectors, where the demands for 'state of the art' approaches to the marketing strategies are high. However we now wish to further strengthen the team with the appointment of an additional -

SENIOR PRODUCT MANAGER

The successful applicant will have responsibility for two major brands. Working with our sales force and team of marketing professionals, the Product Manager will help achieve market share and profitability targets by developing and implementing marketing programs based on structured research and a clear understanding of the market.

Applicants will not necessarily have come from the Agri, Construction or Pest Control industries but desirably should have senior level sales and solid marketing / brand management experience in a multinational consumer goods company.

Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are required. Applicants must of course be computer literate and enthusiastic self starters.

This is a senior career position with a respected multinational. The opportunities for structured training and advancement within the company are excellent and regular performance reviews, feedback and coaching are given to support employee development.

Both financial and benefits packages are very competitive.

Please send your resume by post or fax to:

Ms. Nanette Poblador
Jardine Davies
222 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City
Fax No. 844-7022
Email: HRD@jdigroup.com

Only applicants selected for interview will be contacted.

Mindanao Business Council

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Mindanao Business Council (MBC) is a service organization that represents private sector business interests in Mindanao, a region in the Southern Philippines that is anticipating an economic resurgence. To capitalize on this opportunity, the MBC Board of Directors is recruiting an experienced Executive Director to enable the private sector in Mindanao to be the leading implementer of a strategic, Mindanao-wide, economic development program. The successful candidate will possess a proven track record of accomplishment as a marketing specialist or manager in a successful private company and/or have experience as a senior manager of a chamber of commerce or similar business support organization. This is a new position that will report directly to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and be the face and voice of the MBC and the private sector in Mindanao.

In addition to day-to-day management of the organization, the principal duties of the new Executive Director are to: 1) assist the Board of Trustees and other development partners to prepare an action plan and implementation program geared to job creation through private sector growth, trade, and investment; 2) secure broad participation by the private sector, including specifically multi-national corporations and non-resident companies with major business interests in Mindanao, in setting objectives, supporting program initiatives and advocating for constructive change; 3) implement the agreed program and monitor results; 4) meet with the media, government officials and agencies, and donors to present the priorities of the Mindanao business community; 5) oversee program and project operations especially for donor-funded contracts; 6) assist in sustaining relationships with corporate members; 7) support the Council, Chairman and other Board members, as requested.

Candidates must have excellent analytical and writing skills, give attention to detail and multitask effectively in a fast-paced environment. The position of Executive Director requires self-starters and team players with strong interpersonal skills who can interact effectively with the Board as well as with relevant policy institutions, and development partners. Monthly salary from up to P150,000, based on salary history.

Submit your CV and a cover letter, along with salary history and requirements to:

Chairman, Search Committee, *Mindanao Business Council*
2/F DCCCI Bldg., J.P. Laurel St., Bajada, Davao City or E-mail: mbcphil@mozcom.com

The position will be filled not later than April 30, 2004.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A *leading multinational company* is in URGENT need of a dynamic, assertive and mature professional to occupy the following position in our organization:

CHARTERING & SHIPPING MANAGER
(MANILA BASED)

- Male, not more than 45 years old
- Holder of a college degree preferably in Marine Transportation
- Represent and act as owner's representative or principal's agent for vessels calling Philippine ports.
- Send shipping advise to all concerned port authorities prior to vessel's arrival
- Coordinate and make representations with customs, quarantine & immigration and other port authorities
- Arrange berthing schedule with pilot, PPA and terminal management
- Discuss discharging/loading operation with shipper/ consignee and with terminal cargo handlers
- Keep in constant contact with shipmaster to get updates and vessel's position and ETA
- Facilitate all entry & exit requirements/documents of a vessel
- Facilitate all documentation requirements with customs and immigration for both joining and repatriating crew
- Arrange for chandling requirements of vessel
- Solicit cargoes for booking
- Full knowledge of agency work; formerly as supercargo
- Familiar with documents needed for the entry & exit requirements of the vessel
- Knowledge on nautical plotting to determine position and ETA of vessels
- Familiar with Contine and Gencon booking
- Can communicate well with ship owners and port authorities

Qualified candidates are requested to submit their comprehensive and detailed resumé indicating the minimum salary desired, latest 2 x 2 photo, cellphone number/s and other relevant credentials to:

P.O. BOX 7748
Domestic Airport Office
Metro Manila, Philippines
Attention: THE LEGAL & PERSONNEL AFFAIRS DEPT.

A leading company in the aggregates industry is urgently in need of topnotch individuals to fill up its manpower requirements:

COMPUTER PROGAMMER

Male, 21 to 35 years old, graduate of any computer programming course, knowledgeable in VB6, ACCESS, SQL programs, with at least one (1) year experience.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Female, 21 to 25 years old, graduate of any four-year degree course preferably Marketing from a reputable university, with high intellectual faculty, will be responsible for providing assistance to the Senior Account Executive in all Aggregates Marketing activities, perform market studies and analysis, and perform other economic / marketing-related activities.

We are also inviting
NEWLY LICENSED ENGINEERS
to fill up the position of

CADET ENGINEER

Male or Female, 21 to 25 years old, Graduate of Civil, Mechanical, Management or Industrial Engineering Course

Please apply in person together with your comprehensive resumé, TOR, diploma, certificate of employment and 1 x 1 photo at:

DON MARIANO SANTOS AVENUE,
BO. SAN ISIDRO, ANGONO, RIZAL
Tel. Nos. 651-3211 to 15 local 242

Or you may send your application thru e-mail address: mebismar@cac.com.ph

'My Trabaho' launched on dzRH

MBC president Jun Nicdao (L), Inquirer president Sandy Prieto Romualdez at the signing of the partnership of Inquirer, MBC for 'My Trabaho.'

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

EIGHT minutes into the initial broadcast of 'My Trabaho at dzRH:' from left: Andy Verde, Jun Nicdao (partly hidden), Ruth Abao Espinosa, Reggie Reyes, Donald Lim and lawyer Benny Laguesma.

My TRABAHO

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Nicdao and Lim talked about "My Trabaho," the public service program which is supported by Inquirer's Sunday People at Work/ Job Market and dzRH.

More than job ads

Lim explains, "In Inquirer's Classfied Ads section, we have not only ads. We also have resume writing tips and other career advice for jobseekers and people who are looking for greener pastures. In the public service program, 'My Trabaho,' we are adding something more. We will select 10 people and we will really train them how to make a good resume, how to answer job interviews and hopefully, they will be able to get their dream jobs."

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Lim also points out that while there are many job vacancies as seen in the Job Market, many job seekers find it difficult to land a job. The problem is in the matching. He says, "Most jobseekers do not know where to apply or basically, how to go about looking for a job. Hopefully, this public service program, 'My Trabaho,' will provide the jobseeker with proper training in this aspect."

Nicdao emphasizes that the public service program will benefit both the jobseeker and the employer. He says that as an additional service, MBC can accept resumes for 'My Trabaho' through its radio stations all over the Philippines including Radyo Natin, Love Radio and YesFM. Nicdao adds that later on, they may be able to get a courier service to bring resumes from the provinces to Manila.

Proactive approach

Reyes, however, points out that 'My Trabaho' would like to encourage job seekers to first look at job opportunities in their own hometowns before looking for jobs in Manila. This will also help in lessening the congestion in Metro Manila.

Nicdao says that Manila Broadcasting Company is supporting 'My Trabaho' because they are known for their public service programs like Operation Tulong which focuses on giving medical assistance.

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A. Who are qualified to join

1. Filipino citizen
2. Graduate of a two year course, a 4-year college course or higher degrees
3. Physically and mentally fit
4. No police or criminal record
5. Residing in Metro Manila or if provincial resident, can reside in Metro Manila at own expense for the duration of the availment of the benefits
6. Willing to accept terms and conditions of acceptance of benefits

B. Mechanics

1. Send a letter describing yourself, your strengths and weaknesses, and why you deserve to be selected as a beneficiary of this program, together with a bio-data and one 1X1 photo through postal mail to **"My Trabaho at Job Market,"** Philippine Daily Inquirer Bldg., Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague St., Makati City. Or e-mail to **peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph**. You can also handcarry your letter and biodata to any of Inquirer's Classified Ads branch offices in Metro Manila.

2. On **April 21, June 16, Sept. 22 and Dec. 22, 2004** 30 (30) letters will be picked (by drawing at random the letters from a box).

3. These 30 letter senders will be invited to attend a 2-day Career Planning Workshop for free to be conducted by Career Systems, Inc.

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MARKETING and classified advertising VP Donald Lim (L), former DOLE secretary Laguesma on 'My Trabaho at dzRH.'

'Will request for higher pay damage chances at getting hired?'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I DECIDED to write you because I simply don't know how to go about my situation. After graduation from college, I went to the performing arts and dabbled in events planning for different organizations. I also got my certificate degree from a prestigious school in a Managing the Arts Program.

I was called in for an interview last week with a company. I sort of got a job offer I like, with a salary that I found too low, to which I said that I would be happy to start with a figure I suggested. The interviewer said that he would consider. He mentioned that I could start on a given date.

That same day, immediately following the interview, I sent two e-mail messages, the first to thank him for the interview and the second, asking him to consider a higher amount I suggested, given my qualifications and skills that I will bring to the job. And I haven't heard from him since.

I must have blown it big time and I want to do some damage control. What can I do to remedy the situation? Should I call him to apologize and accept whatever they're offering, just so I can be productive again? Should I wait it out? I have been asking the Lord for guidance and patience and I know He won't mind if I ask advice from you.

I would really appreciate it if you can find the time to spare some words of advice for me.

Concerned Applicant

I appreciate your situation. Most people who apply for jobs have that same dilemma: Will they be assertive or not? When you think of the number of people applying for a particular position, typically, the job goes to the person who is more assertive.

I don't think you caused damage to your chance to get employed by the company by asking for higher pay. Unless of course the entry rate is so rigid that they would not consider someone with high potential like you. I suggest that you call the interviewer to follow up. But before you do, ask yourself, what do you value at this stage in your career? Is it learning? Then, go for the entry level pay. If you perform well, and your achievements are recognized, I am sure management will look kindly to improving your compensation in the future.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT
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On the other hand, if your answer is pay, then you may be barking at the wrong tree. The reason companies outsource much work today to communications companies is cost efficiency on top of effectiveness. Communication companies have to watch their margins in order to maintain profitability.

Once you have decided on the primary reason for you wanting to join the company you mentioned, then give them a call. I am sure the interviewer will remember you because of the courtesy you demonstrated in sending a thank you note. You don't have to apologize for asking for a higher starting pay. Just simply say you are willing to take the job that he offered you earlier at the starting rate.All the best and God bless!

(Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to advice@ ancillaedc. com.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

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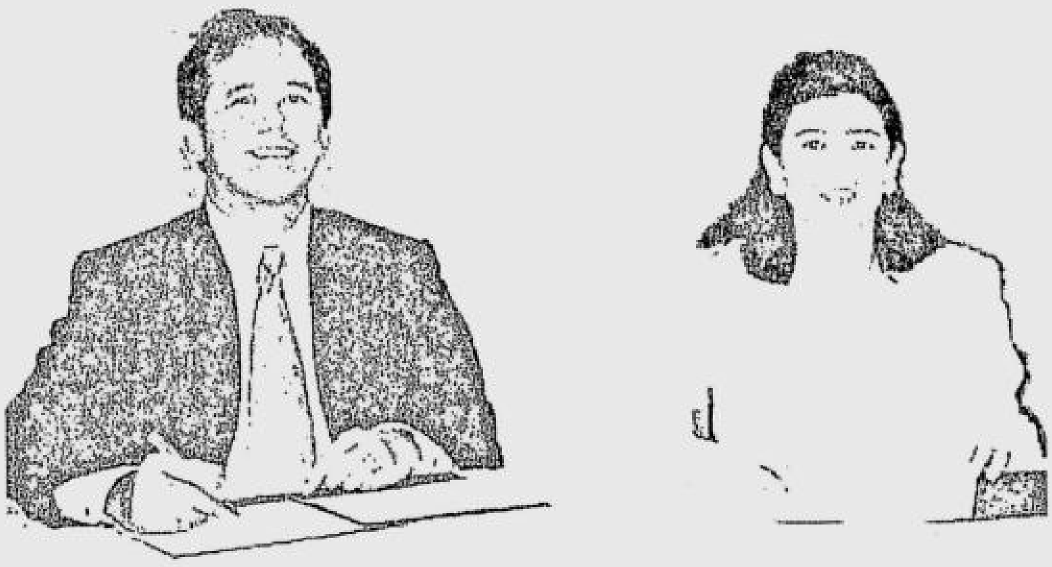

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Earn what you are worth!

hingemedia, inc.

A dynamic publishing company, is looking for top-quality sales people for the position of Acount Executive

1. **Responsibility**
   - ✓ The Account Executive will be directly responsible for soliciting advertisements for our publication.
2. **What we can offer:**
   - ✓ Above–industry base salary plus subsbtantial direct commissions for every closed sale.
   - ✓ Professional sales training and coaching from top sales experts.
   - ✓ Travel opportunity.
3. **Requirements**
   - ✓ Must be a graduate of any four-year course from a reputable university.
   - ✓ Must have at least 2 years of sales experience in any industry. Work experience and proven track record in advertising sales is a plus.
   - ✓ Must be 23 to 35 years old, aggressive and hardworking.
   - ✓ Must posses excellent verbal and written communication skills.
   - ✓ Must have strong, persuasive presentation skills.

Applicants are required to personally bring their resume, two (2) pieces 2"x2" photos, Transcript of Records and any valid ID. Interested parties may visit our office every Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon at 1705 Cityland Herrera Tower, 98 Rufino corner Valero Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227 Philippines or call Tel. 813-6848.

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Organizes our mission of educating customers on uplifting the quality of family life. Not more than 38 years old. Aggressive, personable, highly articulate, progressive and result oriented.

B. (3) BRANCH MANAGERS

Execute our mission of uplifting quality of life in every community and ensures everyone in his branch is committed to it. Not more than 33 years old. Innovative, highly motivated, aggressive, organized, dynamic and with strong leadership and interpersonal skills.

C. (5) BRANCH SUPERVISORS

Committed to a two-pronged objective of meeting sales objectives and providing total customer satisfaction. Not more than 30 years old. Articulate with pleasing personality and strong leadership potentials.

D. (3) VISUAL MERCHANDISERS / INTERIOR SALES DESIGNERS

Create display settings that customers shall desire to have towards enjoying the quality of life. Not more than 30 years old. With experience in designing and executing showroom display. Preferably gained from a retail or department store. Attuned to the latest trends in window display.

E. AUDITOR

Preferably CPA. Male, single and not more than 30 years old. At least 3 years work experience in auditing preferably in the retail industry.

F. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Female, not more than 30 years old. Strong administrative and secretarial skills. Computer literate (MS Office) and proficient in internet. Can communicate well with managers and staff. Very pleasing personality and has sunny disposition. With market research background preferred but not required.

G. (2) DEALER COORDINATORS

Not more than 28 years old. With at least 3 years related work experience in dealer sales and marketing.

H. ADVERTISING MANAGER

Communicates to all our clients the importance of uplifting quality of family life. Not more than 35 years old. With at least 3-5 years managerial experience in retail advertising and with a proven track record in initiating, planning, organizing, communicating and effectively implementing the advertising and promotion programs. Personable, highly articulate, creative and result-oriented.

I. FIELD SALES MANAGER

Carries with him our mission in dealing with institutional clients. Not more than 35 years old. With extensive managerial experience in institutional / corporate sales, with a proven track record in achieving sales targets. Highly innovative, highly motivated, aggressive, organized, dynamic and with strong leadership and interpersonal skills.

J. (3) MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

Determined to contribute in the attainment of sales targets and customer satisfaction. Not more than 28 years old. Previous work experience gained from a retail/food chain a definite plus. Articulate with pleasing personality and strong leadership potentials. Preferably Chinese-speaking but not required.

K. SYSTEMS ANALYST

Not more than 28 years old. With at least 2 years experience in system design and analysis preferably in retail operations. Proficient in developing applications using X-Base programming language. Knowledge in Novell NOS an advantage.

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MIS STAFF * WAREHOUSEMAN
ARTIST * SALES UTILITY CLERK
ACCOUNTING CLERK * DRIVER
UTILITY HELPER

Applicants for positions A to K may come in person every **Wednesdays and Fridays from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm** or send/drop resume with 2x2 picture to

Automatic Centre @ Ayala
6797 Ayala Ave. corner V.A. Rufino St.
Salcedo Village, Makati City

"Other Vacancies" applicants may come personally from **Wednesdays to Fridays from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm** or send/drop resume with 2x2 picture to

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- 3-day entrepreneurship seminar for OFWs and their families
- Business matching activities and meetings
- Entrepreneurship presentations of participating companies
- Social and fellowship night of OFWs
- City tours for OFWs and their families

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- Insurance Companies
- Franchising Business
- Banks and Credit Card Companies
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- Real Estate and Properties
- Telecommunication Companies
- Freight Forwarders and Shipping Companies
- Health Care and Medical Services/Companies
- Computer Training Institutes/Centers
- Computer Hardware and Software
- Print and Online Media
- Fresh and Processed Food Products
- Natural/Herbal/Organic Products

SEMINAR TOPICS

- Kalayaan sa Kakapusan
- Pagnenegosyo 101/Entrepreneurship Basic
- Building Successful Business Plans
- Franchising for First-Time Entrepreneurs
- Franchise Business Presentations
- Entrepreneurship Case Studies
- Business and Product Demonstrations
- OFW Networking Sessions

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April 13, 2004, Tuesday, 9:30am- 4:30pm (Whole day)
○ Learning Photoshop CS and Its Applications

April 14, 2004, Wednesday, 9:30am-4:30pm (Whole day)
○ Learning InDesign CS and Its Applications in Desktop Publishing

April 15, 2004, Thursday, 9:30am-12:30nn
○ Fundamentals of Effective Publications Design

April 15, 2004, Thursday, 1:30pm-5:00pm
○ Optimizing Photoshop and Illustrator as Imaging Tools

April 16, 2004 Friday, 9:30am-4:30pm (Whole day)
○ Learning how to make Interactive Websites using Multimedia Tools

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JOBMarket
e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph
SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2004

Sunday PEOPLE at WORK

Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

Why you must have your dream job

By Joel Garfinkle

1. ALLOWS you to be your true self all of the time. It takes a tremendous amount of energy to step into a false persona for work and not be your true self. Your dream job will enable you to not be "Jekyll and Hyde" but will allow you to be your true self at all times and not waste energy.

2. Fits into your life. Your dream job will integrate perfectly into your lifestyle and will fit you wonderfully. It will feel like a natural part of you and will not hinder your life and other aspects of your life (family, hobbies, interests, etc.). This does not mean that there will not be times when your job will interfere with your life—that is something that will happen. But a dream job will interfere with the rest of your life significantly less than other jobs. For example, your dream job may offer you flex-time so that you can work at home at times to spend time with your family. You will still have to work but it will offer you more flexibility and more of what you want.

3. Incorporates your values. A dream job will have the same values as you and will not ask you to embrace values that do not resonate with you or to go against your beliefs. If you have a concern for the environment, for example, your dream job will not ask you to be involved with toxic waste dumping.

4. Allows you to tap into your unique gifts. Everyone has different gifts and qualities—your dream job will allow you to tap into your unique gift and express it fully. You'll notice that work will feel more effortless due to the use of your gifts and you'll begin to notice the impact you're having on all that you touch.

5. Gives you energy instead of draining you. You feel energized by your job instead of drained and exhausted by it. You look forward to it and embrace every part of it. You start to notice that you have energy for other things both in and outside of work. Having more energy has the benefit of helping you to become more creative and enthusiastic. Imagine the possibilities when you harness all the energy that will fill you.

6. Enables you to align with your passion and do what you love. There is an ease that comes with cultivating your passion. You'll feel as if you're coming to your true home and doing what you're meant to do in this lifetime. As you do what you love, you realize your purpose is being fulfilled and you feel satisfied and comfortable.

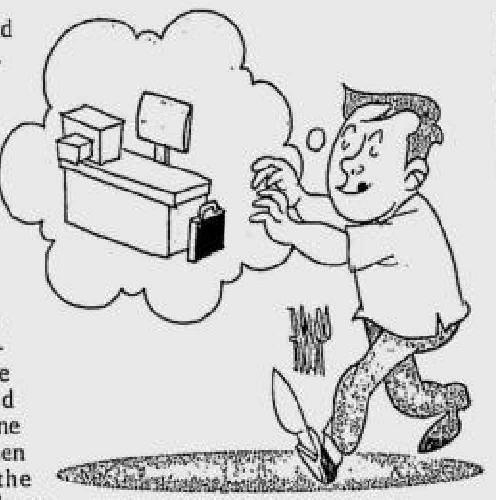

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

7. Helps you to make a difference to something you believe in. It enables you to feel good about giving to your job knowing that you are making a difference in some way and your unique talents and gifts are being used to bring about change to something that is important to you.

8. Is enjoyable and doesn't seem like work. You wake up every day excited about going to work instead of dreading it. You can have fun at work and feel happy about doing your job. You might find yourself asking "Do I really get paid to do this work? It feels more like a hobby than a job."

9. Follows your wants instead of your shoulds. You listen to your intuition and your heart instead of your rational mind and/or what society and others think you "should" do. As you listen to what you want, you begin to know yourself more clearly. The rest of your life starts to rearrange itself around who you truly are and not who you were supposed to be.

10. Fulfills you. You feel a sense of completion. The work you do, how you do it, and the responsibilities and roles all come together in a way that makes you feel satisfied. You know the work you are doing is having impact and you are truly serving your purpose.

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Check out the newest feature in this section p. M8

My TRABAHO

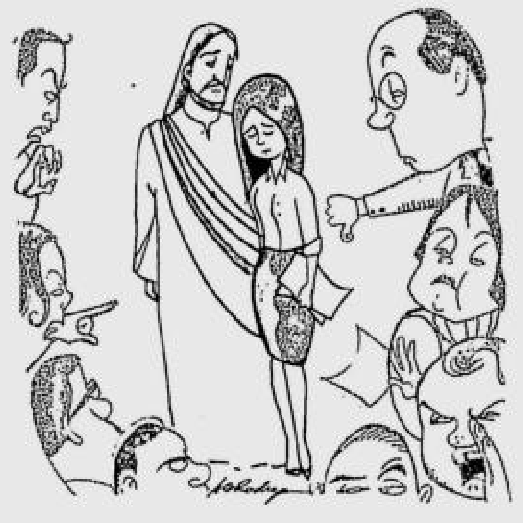
REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Drop the stones

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

AS I look back on all the offices I've worked in through all these years, I note that in all of them there has been at least one woman "caught in adultery." Yeah—come to think of it—in one workplace alone there were even six of them known to be having illicit affairs, and their partners were all from the same office. Now I wonder if such affairs are so common that we've come to take them for granted. Outside of the nasty remarks made behind their back, or the ladies' room gossip at their expense, there didn't seem to be any outright condemnation directed at those women. In fact, they were accepted like the other colleagues, even feared or revered at times, especially if they held high positions (either as department heads or vice presidents "connected" to the presidents). I myself had been a sob sister to a few of them, thus it was easy for me not to "throw stones" at them.

But looking back and around now—when I see that indeed, there doesn't seem to be one workplace without such a woman—I wonder: when do we throw stones, and when not? What determines our disposition? Do we hold back because we want to keep the peace in the workplace, because we'd rather not attack someone useful to us, or because we ourselves are secretly guilty of the same sin? Although it seems impossible to forgive as Jesus did the sinful woman, it is nonetheless honorable to try—to forgive not out of our own sinfulness but to drop the stones in our hands even when we feel that we, being clean, have every right to throw them at an offender. (*E-mail the author at* avemaria@csi.com.ph)



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Gospel. Jn 8: 1-11

Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said "Neither do I condemn you. Go, (and) from now on do not sin any more."

Compassionate love

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB,DD

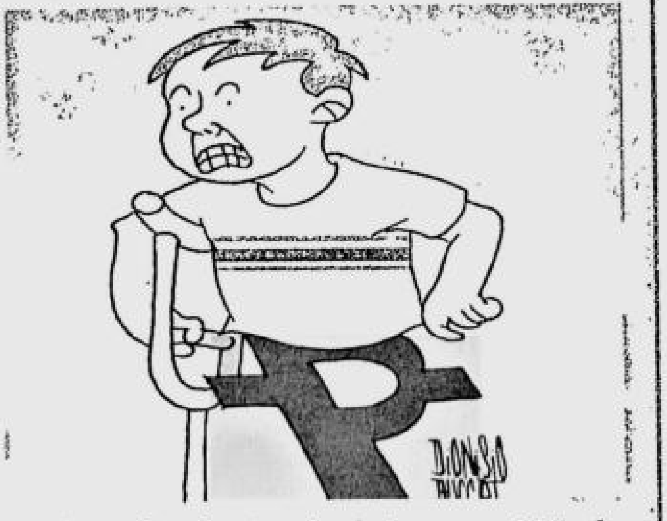
MOST of us are more inclined to find fault in others than to affirm the good qualities in them. We see more quickly the tiny dark spot in a broad white, clean sheet than the pervasive whiteness of the sheet. Our pessimistic views lead us to easily accuse others and condemn them publicly or secretly in our hearts. We forget that as we point an accusing finger at others, there are three fingers pointing at us, reminding us that we need first to scrutinize ourselves before examining others. We also need to learn to be more considerate and compassionate with others and even with ourselves as Jesus in today's Gospel showed great love and compassion to the woman "caught in adultery."

We may have seen a coworker of ours accused of wrongdoing and condemned publicly by management so that others may not imitate his bad example. We might rejoice at such condemnation and join in "throwing stones" at him by making fun of him at coffee break gatherings. We might even volunteer some more information to the administration, which could pin down the person and eventually expel him from the company. We want to rid the workplace of undesirable transgressors and transform it into a place of joy and peace. How do we do it?

Jesus shows us the way. He shows us to love the person even if that person is guilty beyond reasonable doubt. He condemns what is evil and sinful but forgives and shows compassion to the sinner. His love transforms our pessimism into joy and optimism. Loving like Jesus does will make us see easily beauty and goodness in others! (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

What's inside

HR Focus: Sun Cellular's Nuj Sugue
p. M4



Advice for the Anxious Person at Work: Will request for higher pay damage chances of getting hired?
p. M8

How do you handle references in a job search?

WORKING WOUNDED
Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: My current boss and I don't get along. I want to get out of there but I'm scared that every job I apply for will have to go through him for a reference.

No Way Out

Recently the Salton Corporation, primarily known for its indoor and outdoor grills, paid $137 million dollars for the rights to George Foreman's name. That's a chunk of change, but apparently any grill with "Foreman" on it jumps off the shelf. (Ironically, Foreman's getting more for grilling burgers now than he ever got for toasting opponents in the ring.)

Guide

Unfortunately, most of us don't have the kind of name recognition that will generate that kind of cash, so we have to get people to vouch for us before anyone will pay up. Fortunately, though, there are ways around a boss who could deal a mean right jab to your career plans if used as a reference. Check out the tips below. Then see Robert Gardella's "Guide to Finding Your Next Job" (Harvard Business School, 2000).

Are there others in your company who you've worked with? All those task forces and team projects give you a chance to strut your stuff for lots of different managers. Cultivate those relationships because they can give you additional reference options and maybe even lead you to a saner boss without even leaving your company.

Is there a former boss who'll sing your praises? Former bosses are another great resource, so keep in touch.

Are there customers or vendors who'd be glad to be a reference? Asking customers or vendors from a former employer should not be problematic, but be careful when it comes to customers or vendors at your current job. If your boss is difficult now, imagine how he'll react if he finds you messing around with his contacts! So go this road only if you have a personal relationship with the individuals involved and you're sure they'll keep your confidence.

Coworkers' evaluation

Are there coworkers or even employees you can call on? References can come from peers or even from direct reports—especially useful if you're applying for a supervisory position.

People you've met as a volunteer? References from volunteer supervisors can score big points because 1) they emphasize the fact that you volunteer, and 2) they show that you work hard even when unpaid.

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

Former professors or administrators? Forget it if you graduated thirty years ago, but if you've been in school recently this is a great source of references. People from your personal life? One well-chosen personal reference can add depth to your application.

One word of caution. Even if you leave your boss off your resume, you'll probably be asked about him. So be prepared to explain why he's not included, and to put the best possible spin on it. Don't say anything if you aren't asked.

Get creative, think about all your potential references, and with any luck your boss won't KO your future career options.

Here are the results of our last workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com poll:

What would your current boss say about your performance?

—Thumbs down, 6.6%

—I don't have a clue (and neither does my boss), 24.9%

—Thumbs up, 68.4%

(*Mr. Rosner is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at* bob@workingwounded.com.)

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SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2004
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BRANCH OPERATIONS MANAGER

Job Responsibility

Responsible for the over-all operations of a department store to ensure attainment of optimum sales performance and excellent customer service.

Job Qualification

- has a degree in Business Management, Marketing or any related course
- with 3 to 5 years relevant experience in Management or Marketing in a senior capacity
- with outstanding leadership, interpersonal and team-building skills
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- responsible for planning, controlling and directing selling activities and personnel for the attainment of sales targets

COUNTER & CHECKING MANAGER

- graduate of any 4-year business course
- with 1 to 2 years experience in cashiering operations, familiar with credit card and cash transactions
- responsible for over-all supervision of personnel in the department

ACCOUNTING OFFICER

- must be a Certified Public Accountant
- with 2 to 5 years managerial / supervisory experience in all aspects of accounting operations

HUMAN RESOURCE SUPERVISOR

- graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science, or any 4-year business course
- with 2 to 3 years supervisory experience specialization either in timekeeping, compensation or benefits administration

OFFICE ASSISTANT

(Human Resources • Accounting)

- graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science, Accountancy
- Personable, fast learner and willing to work on extended hours

Candidates for the positions should have the following competencies:

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- Willing to grow with the organization
- Willing to work on weekends and holidays

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HR Management Officer

Graduate of AB/BS Psychology. 25-30 yrs. old
W/ at least 3yrs work related experience.
Must know all facets of HR & Labor Code.

Executive Assistant

Female, not more than 30 yrs. old
Strong administrative & secretarial skills.
Computer literate (MS Office) & proficient in internet. Can communicate well with managers & staff. Very pleasing personality & has sunny disposition. Can deliver written & verbal communication very well.

Accountant

Female, below 30 yrs old. W/ 2yrs experience. Well versed in accounting procedures & general accounting. Analytical & knows acctg. software.

Customer Service Assistants

Single 21-26 yrs. old. College Graduate with Business Mgt. Course and computer literate (MS Office).

Graphic Artist

Single, 24-30 yrs. old Graduate of Computer Science/ Advertising. Knowledge in Photoshop, Corel Draw, Macromedia. Must be creative & artistic.

MIS Coordinator

Single, 24-35 yrs. old Grad of BS Computer Science. With at least 2yr work experience in the full cycle of system dev't. projects or in client/server application development.

Marketing Assistant

Female, Single 22-28 yrs. old. Graduate of BS Commerce major in Mktg. 1yr experience & computer literate. Able to deliver timely report & good communicator thru written & verbal.

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Job Description

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Qualifications

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- College graduate from reputable university with AB Masscom or Communication/Liberal Arts degree
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- Good interpersonal or people / PR Skills
- Adaptable and can work under pressure and multiple tasks
- Must be willing to travel and render overtime work
- Possess good leadership qualities
- Two-three years in experience in promotions and marketing *(an advantage)*

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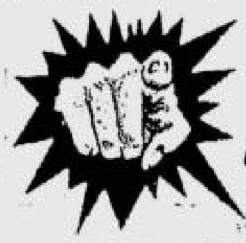

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If you think you are qualified for the position above, send over your resumé and other credentials (TOR, NBI Clearance, etc.) at:

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- are computer literate
- are physically fit

Mail a letter of application to the address and contact person below. Do not send through e-mail. Include a recent photo, your resumé and college transcript and a number at which you can be reached. You will be contacted if you are chosen for a preliminary interview.

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3. An essay talking about your fighting style and kind of work you are dreaming of. It should be no longer than one page (letter-sized) double spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman or Helvetica.
4. A photograph of your meanest fighting face (may be included in the basic resumé)

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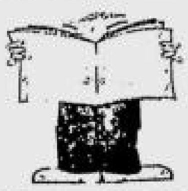

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SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2004

Discernment in the Workplace

By Ernesto G. Espinosa
Assistant Vice President, HR and General Affairs

DISCERN comes from the Latin word "discernere" which means to separate by sifting or distinguish between. In English, it means to perceive something obscure or concealed or to perceive the distinctions of.

"I mistrust the judgment of every man in a case in which his own wishes are concerned."
Arthur Wellesley (Duke of Wellington)

My Own Experience of an Obvious Lack of Discernment

In the work setting, there are times when we fail to exercise discernment especially when decisions involve us. Many years ago as a struggling junior Manager, I was appointed by the Company President to be a part of the cocktail party organizing committee on the occasion of the company's anniversary. The organizing committee sat down to plan and in one of the meetings, I proposed that since we were targeting 1,000 attendees, we should factor in a "no show" percentage of at least 30% of invited guests who will confirm attendance but will not show up during the actual event. At the end of the affair, when we finally counted the number of attendees, there were only around 700. He was made and called me to his office. I explained to the President that we should have invited more people based on what was discussed in one of the meetings. He asked me to show him the minutes of meeting. When I reviewed the notes of my assistant, I discovered that she failed to include this very important information in her notes although I was 100% sure that the committee discussed it, and my assistant attested to this fact. I then instructed her to add this information in her notes so I could show the President. When the President looked at the notes, he noticed that the penmanship of my assistant on the information in question was quite different from the other previous notes as they were obviously written a few minutes back. I recall my immediate superior who was present at that time called me to his office and told me that I could have been more discerning under the circumstances. I knew exactly what my boss meant then— I could have been simply honest. That in the absence of the evidence of discussion which was being requested by the President, I could have readily admitted to him that the information was not captured by my assistant in the minutes of meeting but that it was really discussed.

"The seat of knowledge is in the head; of wisdom, in the heart. We are sure to judge wrong if we do not feel right."
William Hazlitt

Judging Wrong to Please a Few

There is always a thin line separating the obvious from the obscure. Our decisions are oftentimes clouded by our passion or eagerness to put our best foot forward or please everyone regardless of the consequences. The sad part is, we become aware of the ramifications of our actions only after we have committed the blunder.

A typical example in the workplace is when giving disciplinary action to employees. There are occasions when Managers and Supervisors get blinded by their close working relationship with some of their subordinates that they tend to mitigate or reduce the penalty that these subordinates are supposed to get for their offenses. For instance, playing of computer games merits 3 days suspension. It should apply to everyone. But since the one who got caught playing computer games is one the Supervisor's favorite subordinates, the Supervisor goes out of his way to recommend that the employee's suspension be confined to 1 day only. This is total lack of discernment. Under such circumstances, the Supervisor fails to perceive the possible implications of his action. His action will definitely affect the rest of the organization because he is making an exception to the rule, he is not being fair to other employees who were already suspended for 3 days for a similar offense incurred in the past, and his leadership and his leadership ability will always be suspect in the future because of his lack of discernment.

"Common sense in an uncommon degree is what the world calls wisdom."
Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Common Sense

Sometimes, common sense or lack of it does play a significant role in our decision-making process such as when we:

a. Readily give vital information over the phone to companies which do not even properly introduce themselves.

b. Immediately approve leave requests from subordinates who give lame excuses for taking a leave.

c. Sign overtime request forms of subordinates even if overtime has already been rendered.

d. Surrender automatic teller machine cards to small lending companies as a pre-requisite to availing of loan.

e. Swipe in for another employee who promises he will return the favor some other time.

f. Cover up for another employee for a wrongdoing which is under investigation.

g. Automatically score a subordinate's attendance as excellent when the supporting documents clearly show that he has 3 or more absences.

Let's face it. There are occasions when we unconsciously put our careers in jeopardy because of our inability to exercise discernment in the workplace.

Perhaps, we should take the cue from some of the learned before us, as in the following quotes:

"Among mortals second thoughts are wisest."
Euripides

"The art of being wise (discerning) is the art of knowing what to overlook."
William James

"The Delphic oracle said I was the wisest of all the Greeks. It is because that I alone, of all the Greeks, know that I know nothing." (acceptance of one's shortcomings)
Socrates

Reactions may be sent to **ernie@fcpp.fujitsu.com**

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- Minimum of 1 year supervisory experience from customer/service industry
- Team-oriented, with above average communication and leadership skills

ADS & PROMOTIONS OFFICERS
- Female, Mass Communications graduate
- Preferably with experience in same capacity or in public relations work
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- Preferably with relevant work experience
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- Strong leadership, organization and planning skills

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- Strong leadership, organization and planning skills

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SUPPORT/ADMINISTRATION

JUNIOR AUDITORS
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- Analytical, organized and team player
- Proficiency in oral and written communication

ACCOUNTING CLERKS
- Female, BS Accountancy graduate with above average scholastic records
- Minimum of 1 year work experience preferred
- Hardworking, with positive attitude and willingness to work long hours

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ACCOUNTING CLERKS
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- With 1 to 2 yrs. exposure on Accounting functions
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Send resumé with school credentials or fax/e-mail at:
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Tels. #525-3593/523-0957 Fax# 521-36-71
E-mail :grace @elitegarments.com

PHARMACIST
- Male / Female / not more than 30 yrs. old
- Graduate of B.S. Pharmacy
- Must be licensed
- Hardworking, self driven, good moral character

ACCOUNTING CLERK
- Male / Female / not more than 30 yrs. old
- Graduate of Accountancy / any business related course
- Hardworking, self driven, good moral character

MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVES
- Male / Female / not more than 30 yrs. old
- Graduate of 4 year course preferably medical allied course
- Hardworking, self driven, good moral character

Please fax your resumé to 416-69-68

Or send to #126 G. Roxas St., SFDM
Brgy. Manresa, Q.C.

Hotel PONTEFINO
BATANGAS CITY

We are the newest premiere business hotel in Batangas City.
We have career opportunities for the following positions:

MARKETING MANAGERS
(Batangas-Based/Manila-based)
- Sales / marketing-oriented; preferably with background in events planning and coordination.
- Capable of executing projects
- Young, aggressive, personable, stylish, creative, enjoys outdoors
- Highly organized
- Male or female; below 40 years old

SALES EXECUTIVE
(Manila-based)
- With a marketing or business-related degree.
- Has hotel sales experience; loves field work; with established network of clients.
- Eloquent; highly-personable; preferably female.

MARKETING ASSISTANT
(Manila-based)
- With a marketing or business-related degree
- Has hotel marketing experience; loves field work
- Crative; focused
- Male or female; not more than 30 years old

FRONT OFFICE AGENTS
(Batangas-based)
- Adept a handling guest inquiries; fresh graduates are welcome to apply.
- Service oriented; goes an extra mile to pamper the guests.
- With excellent people and communication skills.
- Preferably with a valid driver's license.
- Male; at least 5'8" tall; not more than 28 years old.

Interested applicants can bring or send their resumé (with ID picture) and application letter to:

Human Resource Department
Hotel Pontefino
Bgy. Gulod, Labac, Batangas City

or

HR Management Group
24th Flr., IBM Plaza, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City

DO YOU WANT TO BE THE HEAD OF THE MOUSE OR TAIL OF THE CAT!

We are a travel agency offering both domestic and international travel services is in urgent need of a:

General Manager

Our mission is "Making People Achieve Fullness of Life." If you feel you possess the following qualifications:
- Male/Female
- 25-35 years of age
- With extensive experience in travel agency management
- With customer service orientation
- Enthusiastic
- Has poise under pressure

Please e-mail resumé at ttsi@pacific.net.ph.
Only short listed candidates will be accommodated.

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We have excellent hospitals in the United States. Join the HCCA Family. We are selective but if you qualify and are hired, you receive:

- $20 - $26 per hour minimum starting salary range
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- Daily HCCA presence to serve your needs and answer your questions
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- Free NCLEX and IELTS exams
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- Free NCLEX review books for take home study
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NEW – Immediate employment signing bonuses for new hires, including: Passing IELTS in next six weeks ($250); Already having: IELTS or TOEFL/TSE ($500); CG and passing IELTS in next four months ($1000); CG and IELTS ($1500); NCLEX and passing IELTS in four months ($2500); NCLEX and IELTS ($3000). Contact us or the POEA for the specific details.

125 NURSES CURRENTLY REQUIRED

To qualify for employment, you must not be under contract with a Philippine recruitment agency. You must be currently employed in a 150 + bed acute care hospital and working in Medical, Surgical, ICU, CCU, Orthopedic and Ob/Gyn units. You must be fluent in English and successfully satisfy HCCA's hiring standards. Required documents include: resume, college diploma, transcript of records, board ratings, board certificate, PRC ID, updated employment certificate, birth certificate, passport and marriage certificate, if any and any results of CGFNS/NCLEX/TOEFL/TSE/IELTS exams, plus 4 pcs. 2x2 colored photos.

Absolutely, positively, no fees or hidden costs anywhere!

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Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

Apply at the **POEA Government Placement Branch**, windows P & O, ground floor, left wing, Blas F. Ople Building (formerly POEA) EDSA cor. Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong, Tel. 722-1174 or 722-1175 **(Immediate processing and no lines. See Project Officer Ms. Blenda)** or your local POEA office Applications may also be picked up in Makati at the Enterprise Center, 33rd/F Tower 1, 6766 Ayala Avenue corner of Paseo De Roxas. 63(2) 757-1000.

We at Authentic American Apparel, Inc., The Philippine Licensee of H.D. Lee Company, Inc. Maker of renowned Lee Jeans, are looking for motivated people to fill our team of creative minds.

SALES MANAGER

Graduate of any business course
male, not more than 35 years old
with proven track record in selling
experience in a garment retail industry will be an advantage
excellent communication skills and able to deal with mall / store managers

BOUTIQUE MANAGER

Graduate of any business course
male or female, not more than 30 years old
experience in a garment retail industry
excellent communication and presentation skills

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

graduate of industrial engineer
male or female, not more than 26 years old
2 years experience in technical writing
excellent communication skills, both in verbal and written

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Graduate of any business course
male or female, not more than 25 years old
2 years selling experience in a garment industry
excellent communication skills, both in verbal and written

TRAINING ASSISTANT

Graduate of psychology or behavioral science
male or female, not more than 25 years old
2 years experience in conducting TNA and preparing training modules

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Graduate of IE or Clothing Technology
male or female, not more than 25 years old
1 year experience in the same capacity in a garments company
with technical knowledge in sewing

PRODUCTION MERCHANDISER

Graduate of IE or Clothing Technology
male or female, not more than 26 years old
2 years experience the same capacity in an export garment manufacturing company
adept in production planning and quality assurance

PROGRAMMER

Graduate of Computer Science
male or female, not more than 27 years old
2 year experience in programming and systems development
proficient in VB, Java, PHP, mySQL, python, and linux

These requirements are IMMEDIATE. Please email applications to mlo_magluyan@aaa-phil.com / hdlv@tl-pacific.com
Or send to:
Authentic American Apparel, Inc.
Km 21 west service road, cupang, muntinlupa city

Lee

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MERCHANDISERS/ PROMODISERS

Qualifications:
- M/F, 18-28 yrs old, w/ exp.
- Coll Lev/Grad any course
- W/ pleasing personality

PLS. LOOK FOR MS. NITA
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Bring resume, credentials, 2x2 picture

WANTED:

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Pls. Contact:
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0916-2436329
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FULL-TIME WRITER/EDITOR

- male/female
- willing to work until evenings
- fluent in English
- good proofreading skills
- with newswriting experience
- knowledgeable in PC/ Internet operations (Windows 2000, MS Office, E-mail)

SYSTEMS & NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR

- familiar with Windows 2000/Linux
- knowledgeable in LAN structure, PC maintenance, and troubleshooting
- fluent in English

kindly send your comprehensive resume
and include salary expectation
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A progressive snack food manufacturing company is in immediate need of:

Bakery Product Development Technician

- Male or Female, age 25 to 35 years old
- Graduate of Food Tech., Chemistry or Chem. Eng'g.
- With Baker's Skills Training Course Certificate
- Minimum 3 years experience in a bakery operation
- Handled product development of biscuits, breads, cakes, cookies, pastries, etc.
- Willing to be assigned abroad

Marketing Assistant

- Male or Female, age 22 to 27 years old
- Graduate of any business course
- Must posses creativity and a pleasing personality
- With good oral and written communication skills

Sales Assistant

- Male, age 22 to 27 years old
- Graduate of any business course
- Excellent communication skills, aggressive, can relate well with all types of people.

Accountant

- Must be a Certified Public Accountant, with or without experience
- Male or Female, not more than 35 years old
- Good moral character

Telephone Operator / Receptionist

- Female, age 22 to 28 years old
- College graduate, with pleasing personality
- Excellent English & Filipino verbal communication & listening skills.

Salaries are commensurate to qualifications:
Interested applicants may send their complete resumés and credentials/references (including 2" x 2" ID photo) to:
HRD Manager, 2225 Tolentino St., Pasay City 1300
***or E-mail to hrdmanager2004@yahoo.com** (with attached ID photo)*
Please indicate the position you are applying for.

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medimedia asia

MediMedia Asia, an international company specializing in healthcare communications with a reputation for the quality and innovation of its products, is in need of highly qualified people to fill up a new position:

Research Editor

Qualifications
- Male/Female, 21-30 years old
- Graduate of Medicine or Pharmacy
- With good clinical pharmacy and pharmacology background (preferably with adequate ability to analyze drug information and had been involved in clinical decisions in a hospital setting)
- Proficient in English oral and written communication (proficiency in other languages, e.g. Chinese, will be an advantage)
- Experience in effective medical literature searches from printed and online references
- Ability to interpret and write technical subjects will be an advantage
- Computer-literate, with good working knowledge of standard Microsoft Office word processing and spreadsheet package (familiarity with Pagemaker will be an advantage)
- Must be hardworking, flexible, highly-organized and able to meet deadlines, and committed to the highest standards of quality and accuracy

Qualified applicants should submit their resume with recent photo, copy of transcript of records, diploma and board exam results to:

Ms Liz Ceniza
28/F, Equitable Bank Tower 8751 Paseo De Roxas, Makati City 1227
Tel No: 886 0333 loc 202 • Fax No: 886 0352 • Email: lceniza@medimedia.com.ph

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FITNESS BY DESIGN, INC. is currently looking for HIGHLY MOTIVATED INDIVIDUALS to place a position as

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Applicant must be:
- Graduate of Marketing or Management and any related courses, from any reputable school.
- With at least 2 to 3 years sales experience.
- Male/Female at least 23 to 30 years of age.
- With good interpersonal skills.
- Sports-minded
- With interest in working out in the gym.
- Within Parañaque, Muntinlupa and Las Piñas area only.

Successful applicant will receive the following benefits during their probationary period:
- Monthly Basic Salary
- Travel/food allowance
- Use of company cellular phone
- Gym privileges from FITNESS ADVANTAGE in Festival Mall, Alabang & ABS-CBN Branches
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Interested applicants may send their resumé until April 2, 2004 to:

FITNESS BY DESIGN, INC.
169 AGUIRRE AVE., BF HOMES, PARAÑAQUE CITY
Tel. No.: (632) 826.2761
Fax No.: (632) 826.0755

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jay c. designs

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- College Graduate
- Knows CorelDraw 11 & Photoshop 7
- M/F, single, at least 21 years of age

SALES EXECUTIVE

- M/F, single, at least 21 years of age
- Can work with minimum supervision
- Preferably with selling experience
- College Graduate

MANAGEMENT STAFF

- I.E. or Management graduate
- M/F, single, at least 21 years of age
- Preferably with experience

Please submit resumé with recent picture to:

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5/F, Bldg. A, SM Megamall Tel. # 635-6298
LGF, SM City North EDSA Tel. # 453-4364

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- Pleasing personality

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Send application letter, curriculum vitae with references and contact numbers, transcript of records and colored 2 x 2 picture to
Box no. MK-105 c/o Classified Ads Dept., PDI, G/F, Atrium of Makati, Makati City.

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We are looking for a

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- To help expand our customer base
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Qualified Candidates must be:
- Graduate of a business or economics course
- With 3-5 years experience in sales
- SEC-Licensed as a Salesperson / Trader of PSE listed securities and PSE-Maktrade Certified
- Preferably passed the debt securities qualifying exam given by the PSE Training Institute
- Computer literate (MS Office)

Interested applicants are requested to send their updated resumé, Copies of SEC licenses / PSE certificates, Transcript of records and latest 2x2 picture to:

By mail : Human Resources Group
10/F UCPB Bldg.
Makati Avenue, Makati City
By email : acnery@ucpb.com

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- She accepted this **prestigious award** in **Arizona, USA.**

CallCenter

ARLYN RECEIVES THE AWARD FROM WARREN HERSCH, EDITOR OF CALL CENTER MAGAZINE

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AND BY EMAIL THROUGH recruiting@etelecare.com
OR DROP YOUR RESUME OFF AT OUR AYALA CENTER AT THE 12F
PBCOMM TOWER, AYALA AVE COR RUFINO, MAKATI CITY

IN CEBU – VISIT US FOR A WALK IN INTERVIEW AT THE MARRIOTT
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FOR DETAILS CALL US AT 09179779999
OR EMAIL ceburecruiting@etelecare.com

Would you like to know what it's like in our call center?
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Monday, March 29, at the 20F Citibank Square,
Eastwood City, Cyberpark, Libis. and
Tuesday, March 30, at the
12F PBCOMM Tower,
Ayala Ave. cor. Rufino, Makati.
Drop in anytime from 10am to 7pm

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FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

- Male, BSEE preferably licensed, maximum 35 years old
- With 2 years experience in elect. maintenance/ installation
- With knowledge in high/low voltage switchgear, Mcc's etc.

MECHANICAL ENGINEER

- Male, BSME pref. licensed, max 35 yrs. old
- With 2 years experience in machine & equipment maintenance / installation / operation in heavy industry
- Exposed to machine shop work like fabrication & repairs

INSTRUMENT TECHNICIAN

- Male BSEE, ECE / Instrument Technology grad. max 35 years old
- With 2 years experience in various instrument installation, calibration, maintenance (PLC, Sensors, Controls etc.)
- Exposed in a manufacturing or heavy industry.

Send resumé with photo & contact number to:

FEDCO PAPER CORPORATION
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1660 Pasig City

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Qualifications:
- Graduate of Psychology or Behavioral Science
- At least six months experience in Recruitment and Placement
- Knowledge of basic computer/office software operation

LIBRARY ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Library Science
- 1-2 years experience in this job or any related job
- Knowledge of basic library keeping principles

Personally submit your application letter & comprehensive resumé at the PDI Office, PDI Bldg., Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City.

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1568-B & 1574-D, Mezzanine
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- ✓ Female
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- ✓ Not more than 26 years old
- ✓ With pleasing personality
- * Proficiency in MS Access is a **PLUS**

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Dess or Leandro
896-0970, 896-0742'44

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FOUNDATION FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL DEV'T., INC. (FEDI), a non-governmental organization, with a community-based child and family program is in need of:

SOCIAL WORKER

- Female/male not more than 25 years old preferably single
- Bachelor of Science in Social Work graduate preferably licensed RSW
- At least 6 months experience in NGO-child and family program is an advantage
- Good in oral and written communications
- High sense of family values, responsible, hardworking and organized
- Good interpersonal relations
- Computer literate

Please send resumé with recent 2x2 photo and transcript of records to:

Melody M. Foronda
Rm. 104 David I Bldg., 567 Shaw Blvd.,
Bgy. Wack-Wack, Mandaluyong City
(Please indicate SW-A on the envelope)

E-mail add: fedi@edsamail.com.ph
Social Worker (Subject)

GRAPHIC ARTIST

(MAC/IBM Literate)

We are in need of 1 graphic artist who can meet the following qualifications:

- Male/Female
- A resident of Quezon City
- Knowledge of Pagemaker, Photoshop and Corel Draw
- Willing to work under pressure/overtime

Interested applicant may apply personally or may send their comprehensive resumé with NBI Clearance at Medialine c/o Human Resource Department, Room 911, Landsdale Tower, Timog cor. Mo. Ignacia St., Quezon City. Tel. Nos. 371-1378 and 371-1380.

CARE - Philippines, a non-government humanitarian organization fighting poverty, is searching for qualified candidates for:

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

S/he shall be responsible for program and strategy development. The work primarily includes strategic planning, conducting social analyses, relating with consultants and donors; designing and preparing project proposals; participating in project reporting, monitoring and evaluation; best practices documentation; and technical backstopping.

Applicants should have at least a bachelor's degree and 5 years relevant experience in social development, preferably in the areas of natural resource management and/ or disaster management. S/he must possess excellent analytical skills, the appropriate values/skills necessary in social development work, good communication and interpersonal skills, superior written English and be computer literate. Email recruitment@care.org.ph for full details of the job description, qualifications and application process. The salary for this item will range from P30,000 to P35,000. Submit resumé by April 2, 2004 to: The Country Director, CARE Philippines, 55 Don Benito Hernandez St., Pasay City 1300. Tel No 5512615 or to igot@care.org.ph

spi healthcare documentation

SPI Technologies Inc. is Asia's largest independent BPO (business process outsourcing) services provider. We have a successful 20-year track record of serving Fortune 500 and Global 1000 companies.

To cater to the extensive requirements of our clients in the global healthcare industry, our Healthcare Documentation Services business unit has an urgent need for qualified and highly motivated applicants for:

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONIST TRAINEES

(code: PDI - MTT)

- Graduates of Nursing, Physical or Occupational Therapy, Radiologic or Medical Technology, Biology, Public Health or other allied health courses, Non-practicing, medical doctors, or Undergraduates of Medicine.
- Ability to transcribe 30 words per minute (wpm).
- Excellent hearing acuity and listening skills.
- Must possess above average comprehension, problem solving and analytical skills.
- Excellent communication skills in English.
- Willing to work in any shift.
- New graduates are welcome to apply.

ENGLISH EDITORS

(code: PDI - EE)

Will be responsible for final editing, proofreading and correcting grammar errors in transcribed reports.

- Graduates of English major or other related courses.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English.
- Must have very good proofreading and grammar skills. Related work experience is an advantage.
- With high analytical and above average reading comprehension abilities.
- Proficient in basic computer applications.
- New graduates with excellent scholastic records are invited to apply.

Qualified applicants for Medical Transcriptionist Trainees are invited to visit our office from Monday – Friday, 8:00am until 3:00pm. Walk-in applicants will be immediately scheduled for exam.

Please proceed to the SPI HR Office, 2F Sky Freight Bldg. C, NAIA Avenue corner PASCOR Drive, Parañaque City. Bring your updated resumé w/ recent 2X2 ID picture, Transcript of Records and SSS ID or E1 form.

You may also send your application online to r.aragn@spitech.com

Please indicate position code on the envelope or in the subject line.

spi technologies

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announces openings for

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Qualifications:

- must be a B.S. in Criminology graduate
- with at least one year related work experience

Please send letter of application, resume, copies of transcript of records, diploma, other credentials and photo to:

Mr. Cef D. Sta. Maria
Vice President for Operations

Ground Floor, Administration Building
Nicanor Reyes Street, Sampaloc, Manila
cstamaria@feu.edu.ph
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- DBA from a reputable school
- With noteworthy publications

College of Arts and Sciences
- Phd from a reputable school

EDUCATION COORDINATOR
- Graduate of any Bachelor's degree from a reputable school
- With at least 18 units (MA/MBA)
- At least five years of relevant teaching experience

PROGRAM HEAD
- Graduate of any Bachelor's degree from a reputable school
- Appropriate Master's degree holder
- At least three years teaching experience
- At least 2 years managerial experience
- Proficient in Information Technology

For Non-Academic Staff Nationwide

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

For Metro Manila, Batangas, Cebu & Cabanatuan Cities
- Graduates of Marketing; Management or any related course
- Preferably MA/MBA holder
- 5 years experience in Sales/ Marketing in a managerial capacity

AUDIT SUPERVISORS
- Graduate of BS Accountancy
- At least 2 years relevant work experience

QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPERVISOR
- Graduate of Engineering, BS Statistics or any related course
- At least 2 years relevant work experience
- With previous training / exposure to ISO 9000 Standards

LICENSED LIBRARIANS
- Graduates of BS Library Science from reputable schools
- At least 2-3 years relevant work experience

SALES ENGINEER
- Graduate of any Engineering course
- At least one year experience in Sales

Qualified applicants are requested to apply in person or mail their comprehensive resumé with 2" x 2" picture and transcript of records not later than April 16, 2004 to:

Corporate Human Resources
AMA Group of Companies
AMA Building II, 59 Panay Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. No. (02) 373-3901 loc. 8295, 8296, 8288
Fax No. (02) 373-3901 loc. 8262

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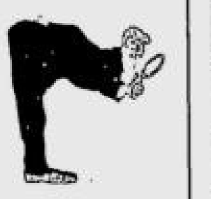

JOB Market

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ACCOUNTANTS /INTERNAL AUDITOR

Male/female not more than 30 years old, Graduate of B.S. Accountancy, computer literate expertise in Importation & Documentation, Bookkeeping, Payroll, & Inventory, Familiar with Government reports/ Auditing and General Accounting with valid Driver's License.

PROCESS ENGINEER

Male not more than 25 years old, with exposure in the areas of productivity improvement & Analysis, Time and Motion Study, Line balancing. Newly graduates are also welcome. Willing to work in a shifting schedule. With valid driver's license.

INDUSTRIAL MECHANICS

Male, graduate of any Vocational course or its equivalent 3-4 yrs work experience on repairs pumps, air-conditioning, air-compressor, and hydraulic and electrical lifts, emergency generators. Can trouble shoots and identify faults of mechanical system and make possible solutions. A certified mechanic is an advantage. Experience in implementing preventive maintenance schedules of equipments must have a good and positive work attitudes, willing to be assigned at Calamba Area.

SALES & MARKETING ASST.

Male not more than 28 years old, Graduate of any four course with at least 3 yrs experience in the field of marketing and aftermarket service operations, holder of a valid driver's license, computer literate, not more than 28 yrs old.

BRP SUPERVISOR (AUTO PAINTING)

Male not more than 35 yrs old, with good experience (SPRAY BOOTH oven type) can handle 12 people willing to work even Sundays & Holidays.

DRIVERS

Male not more than 30 years old with Professional Driver's License (code # 1, 2 & 3) knowledge in trouble shooting, familiar within Metro Manila, willing to render long overtime & shifting schedule.

These are urgent requirements interested applicants may apply in person or send their resume with recent 2 X 2 photo to:

SUBURBIA AUTOMOTIVE VENTURES, INC.
G13 Km 23 Ortigas Ave., Extn. Taytay Rizal
Tel no. 660-58-21 / e-mail address usservoinc@edsamall.com.ph
Fax 658-00-52

WELL-KNOWN MANUFACTURER OF BRANDED CHILDREN PRODUCTS INVITES ALL QUALIFIED APPLICANTS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS

ARTIST/ILLUSTRATOR

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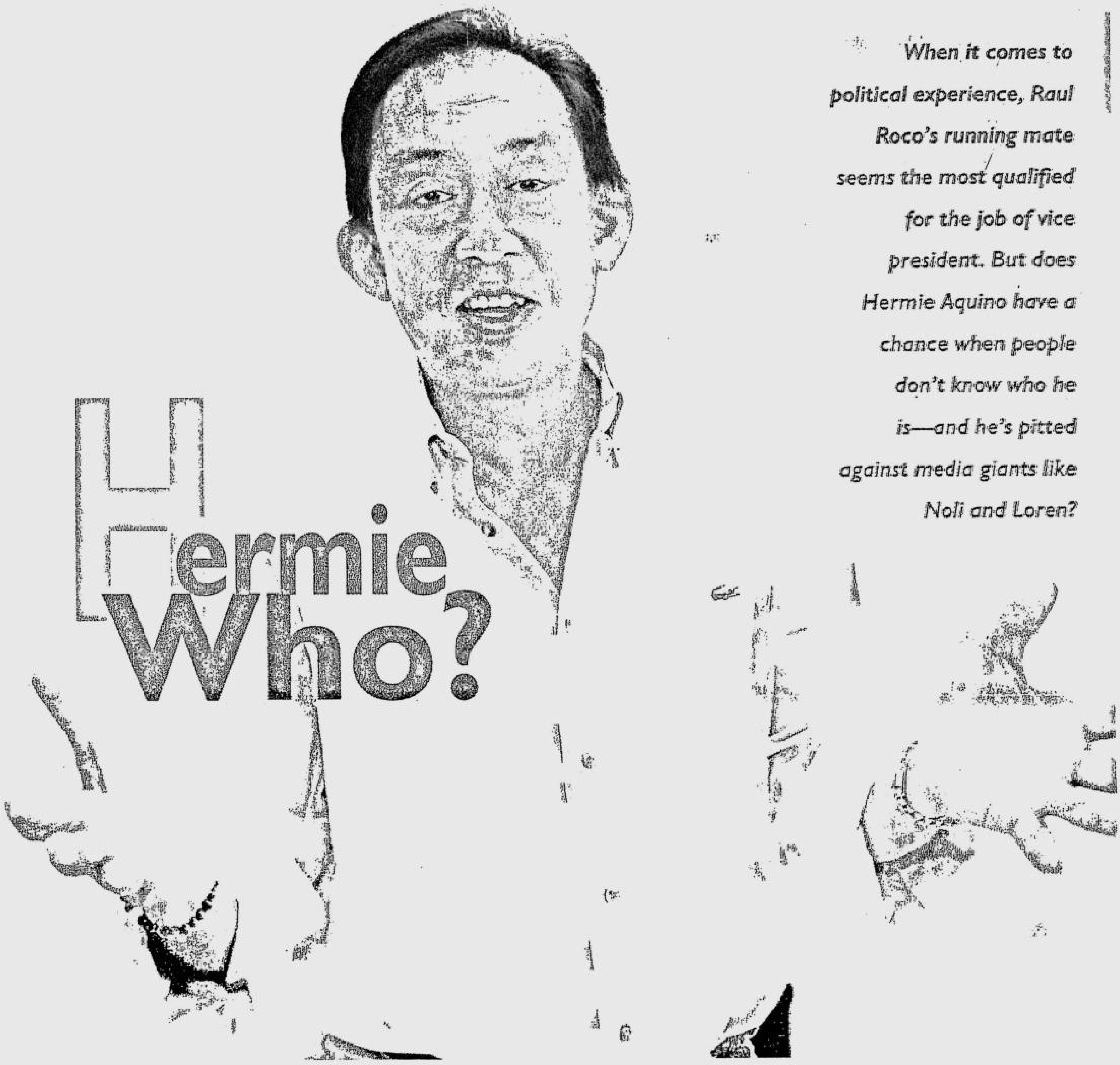

Hermie Who?

When it comes to political experience, Raul Roco's running mate seems the most qualified for the job of vice president. But does Hermie Aquino have a chance when people don't know who he is—and he's pitted against media giants like Noli and Loren?

By Eric S. Caruncho
Photograph by August dela Cruz

IT IS easy to be underwhelmed by Hermie Aquino.

In person, he presents a less than imposing figure. A man of average height and build, he has an unruly patch of thinning dark hair, big ears that stick out of his head, and—his most prominent feature—a pair of large, heavy-lidded sad-sack eyes that seem forlorn, even when he smiles. Especially when he smiles: The thin lips open, revealing teeth, but the corners of the mouth stay downturned. It is a smile that doesn't seem to come easily.

In short, the man doesn't exactly exude charisma. In advertising, Aquino is what is known as a "tough sell."

Yet it would be a grave mistake to dismiss him out of hand. Appearances can be deceiving, especially in politics, where image often supersedes substance.

When Raul Roco announced last January that he had picked the three-time Tarlac congressman to be his running mate, the initial consensus (after "Hermie who?") was that he was probably the most qualified candidate for the job, but that the likelihood of his winning over media figures Noli de Castro and Loren Legarda ranged from remote to not a chance in hell.

Apart from serving three terms as the representative of Tarlac's 3rd district (authoring, among others, the bill creating the Department of Energy), he had also served as Tarlac's vice governor from 1998 to 2000. He was also Minister of Human Settlements under Cory Aquino, in charge of untangling the Byzantine Marcos-era bureaucracy. An economics graduate from the Ateneo de Manila University, he had an MBA from the Asian Institute of Management and had practiced as a management consultant before entering government service. On paper, at least, Aquino easily trumps Noli and Loren.

But then, if voters chose candidates based on qualifications rather than charisma, we wouldn't be in the mess we're in now, would we?

So, six days a week, Aquino is out stumping with the Roco campaign. If it's Wednesday, it must be Dipolog.

"We have no special strategy except to get exposed to as many people as we can, to tell them about the requirements of the job and my qualifications," says Aquino. "Of all the parties, I think we've pressed the most flesh."

As proof, he rolls up the sleeve of his faded blue work shirt to show his tan line. Conducting a national campaign in the blazing heat of summer is no joke. Raul Roco has reportedly lost 15 pounds already, but Aquino seems to be taking it in stride.

"Let me put everything in context," he says. "I wasn't really planning to run. I wasn't even planning to run for my district in Tarlac. I told my people that I would concentrate on helping the Roco campaign. I didn't really have the long preparation that goes with a national campaign. I became a candidate only last January—too short a time compared with the

To page 0

Their Dogged Determination
by Alya B. Honasan, p.3

Maryo the Magnificent
by [illegible]anus Vi

Marked by Her Monicker
by Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz, p.4

Hermie

...from page 1

Baptism: Campaigning with Cory Aquino

media exposure of the other candidates. And they're incumbent senators. They're already in fifth gear, I'm just starting."

Behind the scenes

Ideally, he adds, a candidate should be focused 100 percent on campaigning. The party's campaign machinery should take care of planning, strategy, fund-raising, speech writing—all the nitty gritty details—and all the candidate has to do is stand on the podium and deliver his lines. But having started behind the scenes before he was drafted, Aquino still has to pitch in behind the scenes, which takes time and energy away from the campaign itself.

More and more, national electoral campaigns are media campaigns. Here, Noli and Loren hold the natural advantage, having several years of TV exposure under their belts. While he does have the illustrious surname, Hermie Aquino isn't exactly a household name outside his bailiwick, and there isn't enough time—let alone money—to try to even the odds.

"I could have gone on a massive media campaign, but that would have required large amounts of money that we don't have," he admits. "You can spend 10, 20, 50 million, and you still don't know where you'll be at the end of the day. Even if Noli and Loren hide from now until May 10, they'll still get votes."

Media placement is the single largest expenditure in any campaign, and with their admittedly limited budget, the Roco camp is making every second of air time count, with exposure carefully apportioned among the candidates on the ticket. For Aquino, this translates into about a second of on-cam time in the party's latest two-minute music video-type ad. The rest of the campaigning will have to be done in the trenches.

"Our strategy is to bring the campaign to the people," says Aquino. From day one, we dedicated this campaign to the youth and the poor—they are our target. We've gone on market tours, campus tours, as much as possible we've gone down to the level of the people as a way of getting to meet the voters directly. We do fewer rallies because the people who go to rallies are your people already.

"A candidate for vice president should be looked at the same way as a presidential candidate," he continues. "It's the same job, except that one is sitting, the other is waiting, so the job requirements are the same. What I'm saying is that among the candidates, I am the best qualified for the position. I have experience in the executive branch, the legislative branch, local government. The other candidates are mainly media personalities, and while they may be good in their professions, *iba ang pagpapatakbo ng bayan*. (Running a country is a different thing.) Their combined senate experience is eight years, I have 11 years legislative experience, 15 years total in government service—double that of theirs."

Native scion: The young Hermie with his parents

Put this way, soberly, rationally, Aquino makes a very good case for why the people should vote for him. Unfortunately, elections in this country are anything but sober or rational, something that Aquino himself is acutely aware of.

"I come from a political family, and when I was growing up, whenever there was an election, everyone was always supporting some candidate or other," he says.

Revolutionary

Born in 1949, Aquino is the youngest son of revolutionary war General Servillano Aquino, the patriarch of the Tarlac political clan. One of his half-brothers was Benigno Aquino Sr., which makes Ninoy Aquino his nephew. (He would also marry into another political family: His wife Vicki Guanzon belongs to the prominent political clan from Bacolod.)

"My father was already 75 when I was born," he recalls. His mother, Belen Sanchez, was the general's third wife and 35 years his junior. There was a 40-year gap between Hermie and his nearest half-sibling.

But, he says, his father still ruled the clan in spite of his advanced age, and he was always *"Tio Hermie"* to his older nephews.

Although politics was in his blood, Aquino decided to study economics at the Ateneo, instead of law as is often the case for budding politicos. He then took a master's in business administration at the Asian Institute of Management, working as a management consultant after graduation.

It was after the assassination of Ninoy Aquino and the subsequent protest movement culminating in the election of his widow that Hermie Aquino became a political animal.

"I joined the PDP-Laban, which at that time was a very progressive party, left of center, with social democratic ideals," he says. "That was my ideological baptism in social democratic ideas: that the government has a social obligation to its constituents to provide basic services, and that the individual is really an important element in society. Those are still fundamental tenets in my beliefs."

After the Edsa revolt, the newly-installed president appointed him Minister of Human Settlements, once Imelda Marcos' power base in government.

"It was one of the biggest management undertakings of the time," he says. "The Ministry of Human Settlements was one of the most politicized agencies during the Marcos regime, with 30 agencies and 30,000 employees."

After his stint in the executive, Aquino won the congressional seat for his district in Tarlac.

"You can ask around in my district: Basic services was my priority," he says. "Education, good roads, electrification. When I became congressman, 50 percent of the barangays had no power. In two years, *napailawan ko lahat*."

After his third term, Aquino moved on to become vice governor of Tarlac but lost the subsequent gubernatorial race. He was planning to devote his time to helping his former colleague in the 8th Congress, Raul Roco, behind the scenes when he was drafted.

"*Para kang ipinasok sa* basketball game *na walang* warm-up," says Aquino, a UAAP aficionado who roots for his alma mater whenever he can, which is seldom these days. "Everything is on the go."

Political savvy

What he lacks in media profile and campaign resources, Aquino hopes to make up for in political savvy and campaign experience. He will need every iota to gain ground on his rivals.

"Our country is on a downward spiral," he says. "Just when things are settling down, *may papasok na naman na gulo*—mutiny, scam, controversy—*palalim nang palalim*. I can't blame the young people for wanting to leave the country and live somewhere else. *Parang wala nang liwanag*. We seem to have a knack for inflicting injury upon ourselves.

"It's because of the leadership: not credible, not trusted, not respected—and it's their own doing. The coming elections is a golden chance for us to choose another set of leaders. If you ask me, our ticket offers the best alternative, the best hope for the coming elections.

"It's been a bad three years with GMA, why give it another six years? FPJ? No experience. He may be sincere and good in his craft, but running a corporation is tough enough. Running a country of 80 million needs preparation, talent, intellectual capacity and political will. Lacson? Limited experience. Looking at his track record, it was mostly with the police and a few years as senator—*kulang pa yon* to run a country. If you look at Roco, I think he's the best choice we have at this time."

Choosing candidates based on qualifications—what a novel idea! Based on the relatively low-key, no-nonsense way he's running his campaign, Hermie Aquino seems to be banking on the hope that it's an idea whose time has come, at last.

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GRADUATION BLOW-OUT Dining with a group of at least four persons during lunch or dinner entitles a graduate to a free meal at the Richmonde Grill. Graduates may either partake of the lunch buffet, or choose an entrée from the Grill's extensive a la carte menu upon presentation of the graduate's school ID and diploma or graduation rites program. Offer is valid until April 30 except during Holy Week. Prior reservations are required. For inquiries, call 638-7777 ext. 3409 or 3401. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

Navotas Syndrome

below a sun shaded
by grayish clouds are
a row of bikes parked like
these are for sale
the intermittent drone
of harsh machines blends with
the burnt excrement of sea
creatures and mutants
a pathway of concrete leads
to an ugly seascape
gigantic crucifixes crookedly
jut out of an oily pool
the graveyard of throwaway things
soot-laden silhouettes from
a distance awaits the backlash
of an invisible god's anger.

Manuel T. del Fierro

The **Sunday Inquirer Magazine** accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <poetry_sim@inquirer.com.ph>

Pag-Ibig Man

Kung ang pag-ibig
Ay isang pumpon
Ng mga rosas
Lamang,
Di na baleng
Manuyot sa lamig
Itong diwang
naka-
bitin
    sa bahaghari

Ng pag-iisa.

Sapagkat
Aanhin ko ang rosas
Kung ang bango nito'y
            kamandag
Sa puso
            at lason
Sa puson,
O kung sa tinik nito,
Pitaka ko'y walat.
At utak ko'y wasak.

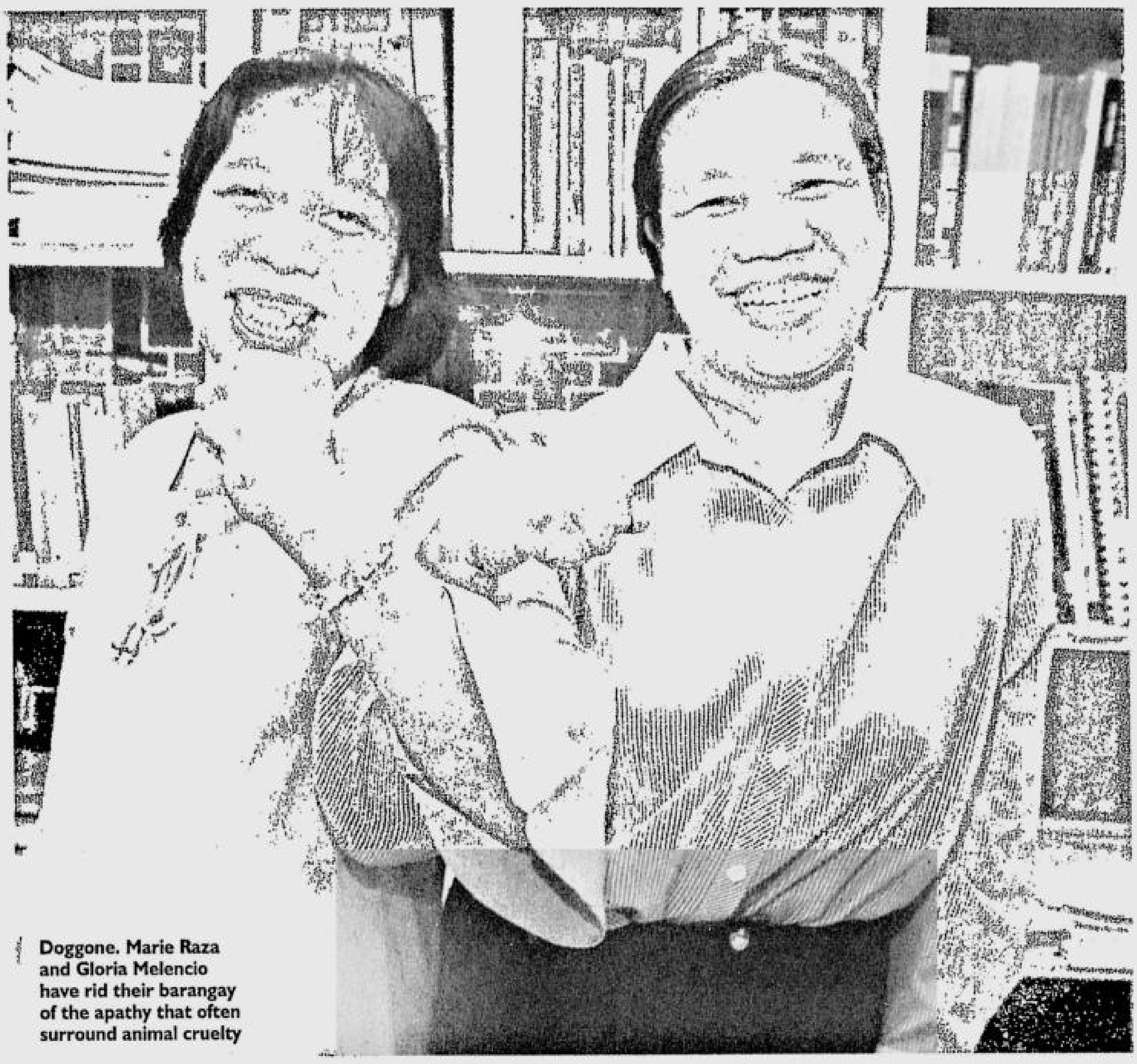
Kristoffer B. Berse

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

For A Cause

By Alya B. Honasan

Their Dogged Determination



ROGER CARPIO

Doggone. Marie Raza and Gloria Melencio have rid their barangay of the apathy that often surround animal cruelty

IN THIS country where justice is just a dream for many and the law is broken with alarming frequency, several women from a working community in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan have banded together to fight for animal rights—and to stop exposing their children to the cruelty that allegedly more responsible adults are engaging in.

It started, as it does for many women, with a child's pain. Gloria Melencio was at work one day when her 11-year-old daughter, Maui, called her up in tears, complaining about how neighborhood men, including village officials and the local barangay *tanod*, were slaughtering dogs in the neighborhood park. "I said, '*Anak*, there's nothing we can do about it, they're our neighbors,'" Melencio recalls. "But we have to do something!" Maui retorted.

The bloodcurdling screams of stray dogs being tortured, killed and cooked in public view, in a hut in a public park in the Horacio de la Costa Homes II Subdivision in San Jose del Monte, had long bothered Melencio. The hut had been built by subdivision officials, supposedly as a nighttime outpost for the barangay *tanod*. A good intention—except that the hut eventually became a hang-out where the *tanod* "would drink and slaughter the dogs."

Skinned and eaten

Eyewitnesses, some of whom have gone on official record, have reported the grisly process that has had animal rights activists rallying behind Melencio. The dogs are tied, hit on the head with a piece of plywood with a nail on one end, skinned, cooked and eaten as *pulutan*, Melencio relates. Residents have had to live with the screams and the burning smell of flesh for several months. "*Tatayo talaga ang balahibo mo* (It really makes your hair stand on end)," Melencio recalls. "You feel the animal's pain."

One day, when the killing happened again, Melencio called San Jose del Monte Mayor Eduardo Roquero's office. Within the hour, the hut was raided, but two of the perpetrators, the only ones who got caught after they all ran from the scene, didn't even make it to the police blotter.

Ironically, Melencio says, even City Hall didn't seem aware that a crime was being committed. Republic Act No. 8485, "An Act To Promote Animal Welfare In The Philippines," otherwise known as "The Animal Welfare Act of 1998," was signed into law on February 11, 1998. Section 6 of the law specifically states that it is "unlawful for any person to torture any animal, to neglect to provide adequate care, sustenance or shelter, or maltreat any animal..." The killing of any animal other than cattle, pigs, goats, sheep, poultry, rabbits, carabaos, horses, deer and crocodiles—and that includes dogs—is against the law, except under specific circumstances. Violation of the law is punishable by imprisonment of between six months and two years or a fine of between P1,000 and P5,000.

Two days after the raid, Melencio recounts, a man accosted her household helper. "We know who called the police," the man said in Filipino. "Don't interfere, or you could get hurt." Worse, the slaughter continued, and noisily so, with the men mockingly announcing to the neighborhood that they were at it again. Melencio estimates that from January to October 2003, at least one dog was killed every month in that infamous hut in Quezon Park.

Housewife, writer and activist Gloria Melencio has rounded up her neighbors to fight animal cruelty—and to make sure that the law is obeyed, especially by those who are supposed to implement it

Again, it was her daughter who moved Melencio to action. "Will we be able to handle it if those people retaliate?" Melencio asked Maui, when the latter begged her mother to do something. "*Kakayanin natin* (We will handle it)," Maui said with determination. "I kept hoping it would stop. Who wants to antagonize one's neighbors?" says the 46-year-old Melencio. "But my conscience couldn't handle the fact that killing was going on, and I wasn't saying anything. Silence meant complicity. I love animals; I have five dogs, and they're part of our family."

Melencio wrote a position paper outlining her stand, and asked one of the few women in the neighborhood she knew to help her collect signatures. "Even if only five people signed, we knew we'd have a case." To her delight, 42 women affixed their signatures—"and they were all mothers and housewives like me, who knew what was going on but just didn't know what to do." Melencio invited friends from the media to the barangay's community center to hear her read the paper, and the news came out in tabloids the next day.

Going further

When she began receiving threatening phone calls, had rocks thrown at her house in the middle of the day, and had one of her dogs poisoned, Melencio knew she had to go further. Last January 16, she filed a case with the office of the city prosecutor in San Jose del Monte for grave threat and violation of Republic Act 8485 against De La Costa Homeowners' Association President Dario Dotillos, Emilio Lorenzo, Claudio Tolentino and six other men seen participating in the killing of dogs in their barangay. Of the original 42 signatories to her petition, only five remained as steadfast witnesses in the formal case; some preferred not to be open, while others, Melencio claims, had been harassed into signing a waiver, for fear of being fined. Dotillos, who is running for councilor in the May election, has filed a libel case against Melencio.

Fighting the establishment is nothing new to this 46-year-old managing editor of "Komunidad," the newsletter of the local governance citizens' network based in the office of the Education for Life Foundation (ELF), an NGO. A freelance writer and trainor in gender sensitivity, leadership and technical writing, she was born in Manila and grew up in Bulacan. "I wanted to be a veterinarian—my dream was to own a ranch!" she says, laughing. Melencio was kicked out of her vet med course because of too much rallying, and instead earned her degree in Philippine studies, major in history, from the University of the Philippines.

"The women in my family were strong women," Melencio recalls. "My mother used to chase troublemaking men in the province with a knife." She was also taught to respect the rights and peace of mind of people around her, she says, which is why the idea that children in her *barangay* are being exposed to needless cruelty makes her blood boil. "Once I saw some children shoot a cat dead with a pellet gun," she says, shaking her head. "After all, if they see adults doing it, they must think it's alright." Her husband, who is working in Saudi Arabia, has warned Melencio to be careful. "He doesn't even know we've filed the case. Now he will. I was worried I was the only one being brave, but I didn't know my neighbors were braver than me!"

Backing up Melencio as witnesses in her case are her neighbors Marie Raza, Margie Bantigue, Victoria Nonato, Mila Tienda and Abel Pavo. "We need to prove that we respect the law, otherwise anybody can get away with breaking it," declares Raza in Filipino. This Akbayan party list representative to the local barangay women's council is a fighting Waray at heart who moved to Manila when she was 12 and took on a gaggle of jobs after finishing high school—"everything except dancing in a beerhouse, because I'm not pretty enough for that," she laughs heartily. "I've always been feisty, and I know what it's like to stand up for something because I had to be independent. That's what my husband liked about me!"

Whistle brigade

It's an awareness of civic responsibility that has gotten Raza involved in the dog-killing issue in her barangay. "People who lead our community should do their job when it comes to animal welfare. People don't want conflict, but we should learn our lessons."

Like the other women, 43-year-old Raza is a mother; she has three kids, the eldest in college studying computer science and the youngest in third grade. She also has a cat she loves—"*parang tao*," Melencio notes. "I don't like it when people I love are treated badly," Raza says. "That's why we can't just sit in the corner and cry."

As an added bonus, the women who used to be just nodding acquaintances on the street now meet regularly, and have become friends. Although their row houses keep them in close proximity, Melencio has received a donation of whistles from the Philippine Animal Welfare Society for a whistle brigade, so that any one of the women who may be in danger can alert her neighbors.

'Menopausal'

In an early hearing of the case before the Association of Barangay Councils last February, angry words flew; one barangay official even suggested that the women were simply moody because they were menopausal, Melencio recounts. The case is now awaiting resolution in the office of Fiscal Artemio Salazar, who will decide whether it will proceed to a higher court or be dismissed. Dotillos' libel case against Melencio has been filed with the same office. One of the barangay *tanods* seen killing a dog, Emilio Lorenzo, has resigned over the brouhaha. Last February 4, the nine men also filed a counter-affidavit in the same office, claiming that there was no evidence that they slaughtered dogs, that they did not violate the law, and that Melencio's complaints were "perjurious and malicious," as she was "not even the proper person to initiate this case."

Even if the women are spending their own money and are currently in search of a lawyer, Melencio vows that they will see the fight through. The killing in the park has stopped, but she is certain it is going on in another place. "It's a cultural problem. The culture of violence begins in hurting innocent creatures. Dogs are symbols of sincerity and loyalty. If you spank them, *hindi sila nagtatanim* (they don't bear a grudge). They still love us. What kind of inhumanity allows us to kill them in such a brutal way? What does that say about us?" Q

PDI PHOTO

Stray dogs such as these, intercepted on the way to a slaughterhouse, are still being killed in violation of the Animal Welfare Act

The Reel life

By Janus Victoria

Maryo the Magnific

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Young Achievers

By Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

Marked by Her Monicker

It's both a burden and a blessing, says Kalayaan Pulido Constantino, of a name that evokes both martial law memories and a tradition of nationalist politics. Can one ever live up to such a name?

VERY few can remain indifferent to her name. Kalayaan Pulido Constantino evokes instant memories of martial law, when activists expressed, through their children, lofty aspirations suppressed by an authoritarian regime. At the same time, her married name might as well be a patent for the nationalist politics espoused by paterfamilias Renato Constantino, Sr., whose writings have become classics in the study of the country's social and political ills.

It is both burden and blessing, says Kala of the name bequeathed her by her activist father, Nestor Pulido, a former political detainee and Kabataang Makabayan member whose circle at UP Diliman in the '60s included writers Pete Lacaba and Ninotchka Rosca. So enamored was her father with the Leftist struggle that he named his second daughter Makibaka—mercifully shortened into Maki, as in, yes, that GMA-7 reporter. Spared from future political flagellation were their three younger siblings, Mary Anne, Nestar and Leonido, who were named after relatives.

Says Kala, "My mother (Alice Pulido, now mayor of Anda, Pangasinan) finally put her foot down. She feared for our security because this was during martial law and my father was still under surveillance as a ex-detainee." Both Kala and Maki had to endure endless ribbing in school, as classmates asked about their "weird" monickers. "It came to a point that we totally did away with our baptismal name in our school records and documents, only to reconstruct them when we got to UP for college."

A beautiful name

It was on the first day of school at UP Manila that now stage actor Leo Martinez, Kala's professor, uttered those words that turned things around for her. "He read my class card and said, 'Kalayaan—what a beautiful name!'," she recounts. "His words liberated me from all the embarrassment I've had to endure before."

Feeling proud about her name might have taken Kala some time, but living up to it was a breeze. Politics was regular fare at the Pulido dinner table. "We'd spend summers at the Hundred Islands where my parents met and there, while lolling on the beach, family conversation would revolve around why martial law was evil, how people were being tortured under the dictatorship, and so on."

When former Sen. Ninoy Aquino was gunned down at the airport, Kala recalls the countless prayer rallies held at the school quadrangle, and the "Sister Stella L" movie that St. Mary's College, Quezon City sponsored at nearby Delta Theater. She was in fourth year high school when people started gathering at Edsa to oust the Marcoses. The entire family camped out near Cubao, she recalls, after her father, then a network executive, had parked the family car at GMA-7.

All that primed her for college where, says Kala, the first thing she did was join the League of Filipino Students (LFS), a militant campus organization. Ironically, her father nixed Kala's involvement. "He feared that I might go underground." Eventually, she did. "I remember how angry my mother was. When I became a mother myself, she told me: '*Hala, magra*-rally *din ang mga anak mo kasi sutil ka*! (Hah! Now let's see you deal with your children when they join rallies!)"

An active campus figure, Kala was student council president at UP Manila and a fixture at street rallies on the Mendiola massacre, the US bases issue, the watered-down agrarian reform law, the murder of mass leaders Lando Olalia and Lean Alejandro, and basic IBP issues (for *Imperyalismo, Bureaukrat-kapitalismo* and *Pyudalismo*). She got so involved with the days' political ferment that she got sidetracked into joining the Leftist movement and abandoning her studies. "I still have one semester to go to get a nursing degree," she says, not without regret.

True calling

Several years later, a split in the Left disillusioned her enough to leave the movement. "It was the lowest point in my life," recounts Kala. "I wanted to remain relevant to the principles that I still believe in, but I felt that the movement no longer satisfied me." Feeling lost, she was persuaded to manage Fish Ahoy!, a fresh fish retail outlet that her mom put up. "Mom saw her chance to pull me out of the movement and back into the mainstream, so she set up the business and I ran it—for about eight months." But she wasn't cut out for business, Kala found out. "I'd get up at dawn *dahil yun ang bagsakan ng isda* (that's when the fishers dump their catch), and stay up late to make sure that leftover fish were properly handled and stored. I really didn't fit in."

Still looking out to be socially committed, Kala discovered NGOs and found her calling. "I didn't want to leave activism; I still wanted to contribute to social causes, but could no longer do it full time," she says. For some time, she worked as head of the coalition desk of Sanlakas, a mass-based organization whose president was Renato Constantino, Jr. (RC). It was here that she met RC's son, Renato Redentor (Red), who later became her husband.

"He was my very first boyfriend," confides Kala, who traces her attraction to his looks. "*Guapo kasi!*" she giggles. Red's parents were also her colleagues at the Foundation for Nationalist Studies and she was on first name basis with them. "Whe
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From Nora Aunor to the Masculados, Maryo J. de los Reyes, director of acclaimed film "Magnifico," has never stopped being in charge of his productions—and his own fate

n, Maryo J. de los Reyes dreamed big ing. He wanted to be a director. Now eted over 50 films and garnered 50 lo- onal awards for his work.

st move as early as kindergarten, when f a class production. "Whenever there ıy, I would be in charge. I even played s. He carried this keen interest and ater work throughout his school days n Juan de Letran and Malate Catholic hout it affecting his grades, adds this n from both schools.

itered the seminary in his last year in high ver put aside his passion; he became even ınd perhaps a bit too enthusiastic for the seminary. By this time, he had acted in other like Tanghalang Ateneo's *"Hoy Boyet Gising wan,"* and taken some workshops with the nal Theater Association (PETA). He was orga- s and doing plays at the seminary when he ld still do evangelization as a layman. He left assing the UP entrance exams and, with the ntor, Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, did his final the- eater as a medium of instruction for family . It won him a seat in the youth panel during ternational Woman's Year in Mexico. Then he to do a report on the assembly and apply for scholarship at the International Theater Institute in Paris. Again, he made it. For his living expenses, he babysat for his sister, who lived in Switzerland.

Directing Nora

Coming home after six months in Paris for theater workshops, Maryo J. did not have trouble finding work. For some time, he worked with Nora Aunor in her TV shows such as "*Ang Makulay na Daigdig ni* Nora" and "Superstar." He also gave acting workshops to then upcoming young stars Roderick Paulate and Willie Santos. Then, after working for director Lupita Kashiwahara as Aunor's acting coach in the classic film "*Minsa'y Isang Gamu-Gamo,*" Maryo J. got his first break as a film director.

"They had a project under Agrix Films. And Lupita said, 'We're doing a project for children—'High School Circa '65.' We'll give you a break.' *Sabi ko,* 'Why not?' I was 24. I did my first film when I was 25 going on 26 and I followed it up with 'Gabun.' Nora asked why I was directing others but not her. I suggested we do a musical because I wrote a screenplay called 'Disco Fever.' Then for a while I became known for youth films like 'Bagets' in '84. After that I went freelance with Regal, Viva and Ilang-Ilang (productions)."

Looks like Maryo J. had his life laid out in front of him even before he began his journey. "Because I focused," he explains. "When I was teaching college in the '80s, I told my students to focus. You're wasting money, energy if you keep on searching. *Wa na* search!'" He laments that government agencies aren't that friendly to artists. Despite this discouraging reality, he believes in fighting for what we need. "We always accept that we are a third world country. People always say '*Hay naku, 'wag muna kayong mag*-culture culture, *wala naman kayong makain pa.*(Let's not aspire to have culture at this time; we hardly have food) ' That's unfair. People don't realize that it's the culture that uplifts you; it is what will give you the inspiration to live. As an artist you have to be free. You have to fight."

Pragmatic

As idealistic as all that may sound, Maryo J. would not have gotten as far as he has and stayed as long in the industry if he wasn't pragmatic. Up to now, even with numerous awards under his belt, he still signs contracts with commercial film producers and concedes to some of their suggestions. "For example, *sabihin ni* Mother (Lily Monteverde of Regal Films), 'Can you do a movie with this guy?' so she can give jobs to her stable of actors and actresses. Sometimes she would contribute. OK *lang naman,*" he admits. He can, however, now afford a certain luxury: refusing projects he doesn't have a feel for.

But even Marjo J. has tempered such luxury with the advice he gives fellow artists, something he learned from a two-week course at the Asian Institute of Management. "You have to make your art last longer. You have to know how to manage it because otherwise it will die. Where will you get your sustenance? What if you get sick?"

He cites the boy version of the Sexbomb Dancers, the Masculados. Believe it or not, it was Maryo J. who formed the group for commercial reasons, he admits. But he does not want the act to just stay that way. "I wanted to give a bunch of kids work. But they should still excel. So I had them attend workshops."

In the meantime, while Maryo J. waits for his boys to grow up, he has decided to do some travelling. For the past few months, he's been to Canada, Japan, the Czech Republic, Thailand and most recently Germany, where he brought home a great *pasalubong*: a Best Feature Film award from the 27th Kinderfilmfest of the 2004 Berlin International Film Festival for his film "Magnifico."

A big man

"It was overwhelming in Berlin. I was there and the experience was hair-raising. You're in front of an audience of 1,600 people from different lands and only five Filipinos during the award ceremony. Why would they choose 'Magnifico'?" he asks. "Then directors from other countries started congratulating me. They said, 'I feel the same way you feel because I won last year. You're a big man.'"

On his return home, Maryo J. was welcomed with a Movie Director of the Year award by the Philippine Movie Press Club during its Star Awards night. This month, Maryo J. is off to Amsterdam to attend another film festival.

Believe it or not, he says he owes all this to home economics, the earliest influence in his life as an artist. "My art inclinations were born and nourished through my mother. My mom was teaching at the Home Economics department at the Philippine Women's University and I would help out with their projects."

Today, between trips abroad, he spends his time editing his new film "*Naglalayag,*" starring Yul Servo, Aleck Bovick and Nora Aunor. "*Naglalayag* literally means sailing, but it can also mean a period in a woman's life which is uncertain, like menopause or midlife crisis. It's a silent passage," he explains.

Certainly, Maryo J. has had his own unique passage. From baking to filmmaking, from "Bagets" to Masculados to "Magnifico," he has been everywhere with the diversity of his own body of work.

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n Red and I got married in 997, I had to improvise and ws Paparc and Mommy Du s so used to calling them RC hey have two children, Rio nd Yla Luna, 1, and rent a nent in Quezon City where uarelles, paintings and clay m writing a newspaper col- g against coal-fired power reenpeace and lecturing on nent, economics and poli- is website, too!" Kala says

lot all politics

the Constantino elders be- ng their son considerably ntry into this distinguished Kala. But yes, she admits, ions fly all the time. That's family not only includes the C and daughter Karmina, ior anchor at ANC, but also r's widow Letty (who has ral books herself on the is- day), as well as INQUIRER nd former talk show host d, Randy's wife and Civil mission chair Karina Con- d daughter Kara David, a rter. These days, Kala re- bate centers on who to vote May presidential elections. vary, but the consensus is er wins, we can't expect e unless the winning candi- ses the basic economic is- balization, the foreign debt,

again, it's not all politics, inting to the monthly ball- g that Letty initiates for her n and in-laws, complete instructors. "All the Con- es are Sharon Cuneta fans tching 'Crying Ladies,'" she ry to their intellectual im- be very light and ordinary. hristmas, Kala gave her fa- t-shirt with a print of a fly) and the words "*Peste!*" mom-in-law got another t- spoof of Chairman Mao's fa- . Nothing grim and deter- she says. With her politics hewing to the same line, Kala immediately felt "very comfortable being part of a family with such nationalist tradition,"

The feeling of ease is mutual, says Karina David, Kala's aunt-in-law and RC's younger sister. "I knew Kala's father from way back. We were *barkada* in college, being part of a group called Bagong Asya (New Asia) that included Nur Misuari. We even had a bookstore cum café called Liberté where we had regular poetry reading. So from the start, Kala wasn't a stranger. Her sister Maki and my daughter Kara are also both at GMA-7 so it's the same circle."

Her first impression of her niece-in-law was auspicious. "*Nakakatuwa siya,* because she looks very sweet, *mahinhin* (feminine) and traditional. But when she talks, she comes across as a strong and decisive activist and feminist. And yet, despite being politically aware, she has maintained some level of innocence and continuous awe. Most others become street smart, but Kala still has that sense of wonder in her eyes," says the CSC chair.

Bridal shower

When Kala and Red got engaged, the Constantino women decided to give her a bridal shower—with a twist. "Nothing stiff and formal. Just us nine gregarious Constantino women," says Karina. "It was like an initiation where we each asked her one question, from how she met Red to if she was still a virgin. She was such a sport about it. *Nakikipagharutan pero nagtitimpla pa rin* (Game but also a bit shy)." Her advice—or rather, warning—to welcome Kala into the family? "Don't let Red intimidate you," says Karina with a laugh. "You see, theoretically, the Constantino men agree on equality, but culturally, they still hold on to some level of supremacy. Like my father, who was the king of the household."

But more than family values, Karina says she shares with Kala a common passion for women's issues and a need to be involved in social causes. Says Kala, "Being married to Red is the best thing that's happened to me because we share the same sentiments. Owning

To page 7

ROGER CARPIO

n Labar
nasan

Survivors' Tales

Text and photographs
by Gia Damaso-Dumo
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Just Another Miracle

Reason to smile: A dose of daily miracles suffices for Flores and wife Felecitas

IT took Constantino Flores almost two whole months before he could venture out to fish in the open sea again.

Flores was one of the 169 survivors of the unforeseen gale that stirred up giant waves in the South China sea on the night of January 23 somewhere near La Union and Pangasinan. The waves swallowed scores of fishing boats from the towns of Bangar, Luna, Caba and Bauang, and San Fernando City, including 17 fishermen who are still missing today. Seven fishermen were found dead in the waters or washed ashore. Of the 128 boats that sailed that day, 105 were either recovered or made it back safely.

Borrowing his neighbor's Petromax lamps, tools and boat, Flores set out to sea on March 15 for the first time since his ordeal. It was a big day, although he returned with only four kilograms of catch, because the trip proved that he had regained his courage. Courage spelled his family's survival.

Recalling that night in his shack in the fishing village of Catbangen, Flores strips the story of any romance about being given a second shot at life. For him, surviving the ordeal was nothing but one of the daily miracles that people like him depend on, sometimes as often as from one meal to the next.

In Catbangen, as in other fishing towns, survival is simply a way of life.

On that fateful day of Jan. 23, at about 2 p.m., Flores headed for the waters of Bolinao, Pangasinan, which was his usual route when fishing. The sea was calm, even calmer than usual, when an unexpected gale struck at about 9 p.m. A group of about 16 other fishermen nearby knew that to try to motor back to escape the giant waves would be futile.

Waves taller than trees

"The waves were as tall—taller than that tree," Flores says, pointing to one that was about two stories high. By 3 a.m., he started his *banca* and tried to head for home but waves tossed his boat about until it capsized. At that, he immediately grabbed his nylon rope and tied his waist and arms to the boat.

Unusually, the thought of death never occurred to him. But acknowledging the power of nature he was up against, he recounts how he wailed and called upon the aid of "*Apo Dios*" (Lord Almighty).

"I never thought of death. I am a good swimmer. I knew that as long as I held on to my boat, I would be safe and somehow, eventually, washed to shore. I would survive even for three or four days like that," says Flores, who is an active member of the Bantay-Dagat Association of San Fernando City. In fact, at 62, his movements and stocky build belie his age; they could easily be those of a man in his mid-40s.

Flores says he was careful not to get any cuts on his body so as not to attract sharks, which are known to smell blood many kilometers away. To appease his hunger, he fed on seaweeds, locally known as *aragan*, that rose up from the seabed. He would grab clumps as they floated his way. *Aragan*, often ignored as debris from the sea, is not usually eaten but is not known to be poisonous.

He survived the murderous gale that swallowed 24 other fishermen in Ilocos last January. But for Constantino Flores, the ordeal is nothing more than another battle for survival, a way of life in his town

Bearing with the scorching heat of the sun by day and the chill of wind and water by night, Flores drifted to Alaminos City in Pangasinan, where, at about 11 a.m. on Jan. 25, tired and weak after 45 hours at sea, he was finally rescued by a fishing vessel.

Surviving for two days in the open sea without food or water is a near-death encounter, but it is akin to the daily experiences of fisherfolk like Flores. To them, the pangs of hunger and thirst, the discomfort of a body beaten by toil are all too familiar, just like the countless moments when one must call upon *Apo Dios* for succor and mercy.

Flores' house lies just along the shore, behind a giant sports stadium where many a VIP has said a hearty speech, not a few times in defense of the poor. But before the sun sets, grubby little children start trickling in as if out of the cracks, playing without a care on the paved driveways—a welcome change from their cramped sandy dwellings.

Here, Flores lives with his wife Felecitas, a manicurist and occasional midwife; son Dante, 21; daughter Janet, 18; and grandson Jon-Jon. Eldest son Rogelio and another daughter Vivincia have jobs and families of their own and live in Bauang town, La Union.

"Easy-going life"

Their neighborhood reminds one of a public beach teeming with sunbathers and picnickers, and dotted with picnic sheds. Only, the picnic sheds are shanties, the swimsuit-clad bathers are half-naked children, and the picnickers are residents huddled in front of their homes for a shot of liquor after a hard day. There are winding black sand "alleys" where one can catch a glimpse of laundry hanging out to dry, dirty dishes, bathing pails. Here, where the blueness of sea and sky is hardly seen, the beach fantasy stops and the reality of a congested community sinks in. The residents belong to what social workers categorize as the "bottom poor threshold."

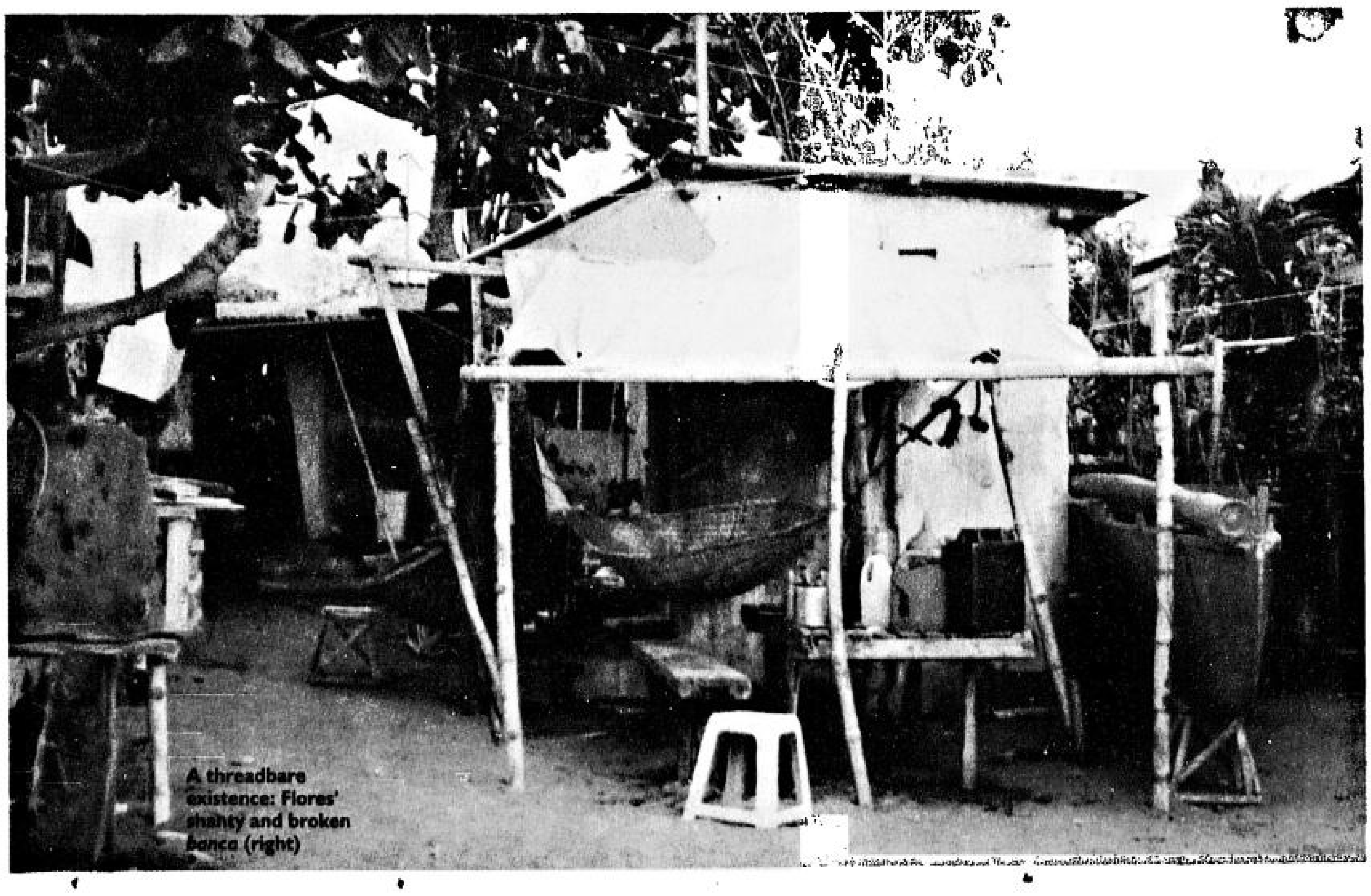
"Life here is easy-going. We have no cares. That's why you won't look old here," Flores says, without irony.

Today, as during his ordeal at sea, he is a survivor of his difficult circumstance. With no fishing boat and equipment, with some fear of the sea in him and with only the occasional income of his wife to see him and three jobless dependents through, Flores survives on daily miracles—the meager yield of the sea, the generosity of neighbors and occasional help from the government.

Shortly after his rescue, Flores received P2,000 and bags of food items as assistance from the city government of San Fernando. He used the money to repair the motor of his boat. He would still need at least P5,000 to repair his banca, one end of which had been damaged, and another P20,000 to replace his two Petromax lamps and other basic tools and equipment which were lost when his boat capsized.

"Fishing has been our livelihood for more than 40 years. I have to go back to the sea," Flores says.

For one who has survived on small miracles, surely one more would not be an overindulgence. Q



A threadbare existence: Flores' shanty and broken banca (right)

This Week

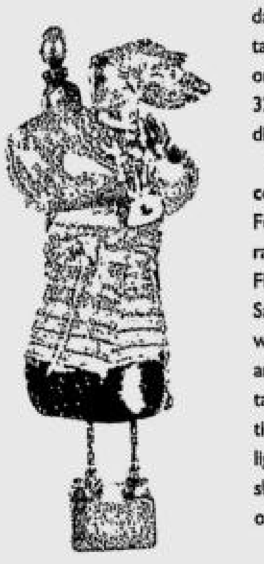
Art

Ala Una sa Simbahan, a photo exhibit capturing moments and experiences inside churches by Neil Daza, at the CCP's fourth floor hallway gallery until April 10.

Spoonful Discard, a mixed media exhibit by Marc P. Cosico and Don M. Salubayba at the CCP Bulwagang Fernando Amorsolo until April 25.

Seeing Gold, a solo exhibit by Henri Cainglet at the Art Center, SM Megamall until April 11.

Si Pinay, Si Inay, Inang Kalikasan at Makabagong Babaylan, a solo exhibit of sculptures by Tala Isla-Contreras, at the Contreras Sculptures Gallery, 4/L, SM Megamall A until April 27.



"*Inang Mapagkalinga*" by Tala Isla-Contreras, on view at Contreras Sculptures Gallery

Music

The Manila Chamber Orchestra Foundation presents a special **piano concert** featuring child prodigy **Ma. Regina P. Montesclaros** on April 3, 6 p.m. at the Francisco Santiago Hall of Equitable PCIBank, Tower I, Makati Avenue cor. H.V. dela Costa St., Makati City. She will perform pieces by Bach, Beethoven, Kasilag, San Pedro, Chopin and many more. For tickets, call 878-4358 to 59 or 840-7000 loc. 2630 or 2258.

Atbp

The **Lopez Museum** located at the ground floor, Benpres Building, Exchange Road, Pasig is offering a series of **creative arts workshop** for teens and adults starting April 19: Lacquer Painting (April 19-23), Comic Book Writing (April 26-30), Creative Paper Cutouts and Sculpture (May 3-7), Airbrush Painting (May 10-14), and Soft Sculpture (May 17-21). Fees for each workshop varies. Enrollment until April 3. For details, call Fanny at 632-2417 or 449-2355.

The **Cultural Center of the Philippines** holds an array of **arts workshops** from April 13 to May 8. Registration is ongoing. Courses include Theater Arts Creative Dramatics for Children, Acting in Musical Theater, Teen Theater, Beginning Acting, Events, Production and Stage Management, Creating a New Musical: Book, Lyrics and Song, Production Design Set Design and Techniques, Costume Design and Techniques, and Lighting Design and Techniques. Art enthusiasts are likewise encouraged to learn various topics in the Center's Lecture Series consisting of Acting in Musical Theater, Directing a Musical Theater, Producing and Marketing Musical Theater, and Designing a Musical. For information, call Nikki Torres or Sandie Javier at 832-1125 locals 1606 / 1607 / 1611 or Rocky Salvador at 832-1125 local 1221.

There will be a **Travel Photography Workshop** for amateurs to be held on April 2 to 5 (first batch) and April 9 to 12 (second batch). Deadline of enrollment for the first batch is March 31 and April 6 for the second batch. A maximum of seven students per batch will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. For details, call 436-1445 or 0916-5459327. You may also e-mail pinoy_workshops@yahoo.com.

Artplay, a summer workshop on visual arts and Philippine traditional musical instruments, is now accepting participants. Classes include freehand drawing, painting, mask-making, kitchen clay sculpture, still life drawing, shirt printing, Kalinga, Manobo, Tiruray, Maguindanaon and kulintang kayu music. The workshop is open to children and adults and will start on April 13. For inquiries, contact Vida Andaya at 913-9549/ 0916-4700262 or Yby Yparraguirre at 913-2047/ 0917-9637457.

Seven Stars Talent Center, supplier of talents for TV, films and commercials, is conducting an **acting workshop for kids** ages 6 to 12, every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, starting April 12. For details, call 417-9924 or 930-1890 or visit the center at Blk. 3 Lot 32, Visita Altares St., Lagro Subdivision, Quezon City.

A **basic photography course** will be offered by the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation on April 11 at FPPF Art Chamber inside Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. The workshop covers practical tips and techniques for better picture taking, knowledge in composition, use of flash, filters, portrait lighting, posing basic and practice shoot. For details, call 813-7420 or 843-5341.

San Sebastian College-Recoletos, Manila offers **free Summer Star Course Program** for elementary and high school graduates. The program, which will run from April 12-24, will include the following 5 course packages: Star Course 1—Hosting, Emceeing, Newscasting, American Diction, Smart Dressing and Modelling; Star Course 2—Voice Lesson, Power Singing, Stage Presence, Acoustics and Keyboard Mastery; Star Course 3—Dancelethics (modern and jazz), Sports Clinic; Star Course 4—Basic Acting, TV Production, Investigative Journalism; Star Course 5—Flight Attendant Skills, Tour Guiding and Bar Tending Skills. Each course is a two-day workshop-oriented learning session. For registration, call 734-8931 to 39 locals 216, 114, 115, 308.

The **British Council** has a lineup of summer **enrichment workshops**: Sound Engineering short course focusing on setting up and mixing for concerts and club events (April 13-17 at Dish, Rockwell Powerplant); Reading Clinic (April 19-30 and May 10-21 at the British Council's Knowledge and Learning Centre); Music Camp to be held out of town from April 24-May 1. Limited slots available. For details, call 914-1011 to 14 or visit the British Council at the 10th floor, Taipan Place, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

X-manila

Island Cove Resort & Leisure Park announces the opening of its newest facility—**Island Cove Farms** which houses collection of live animals like crocodile, monkeys, bengalas, deer, ostrich, turkey and a lot more. Have the chance to meet Jose, the baby tiger. Opening on April 3, special tour packages for groups are available. For details, call (02) 810-3718 in Manila or (046) 434-0210 in Cavite.

Regina Montesclaros holds a piano concert at the Francisco Santiago Hall

For this week's bands and schedules call:

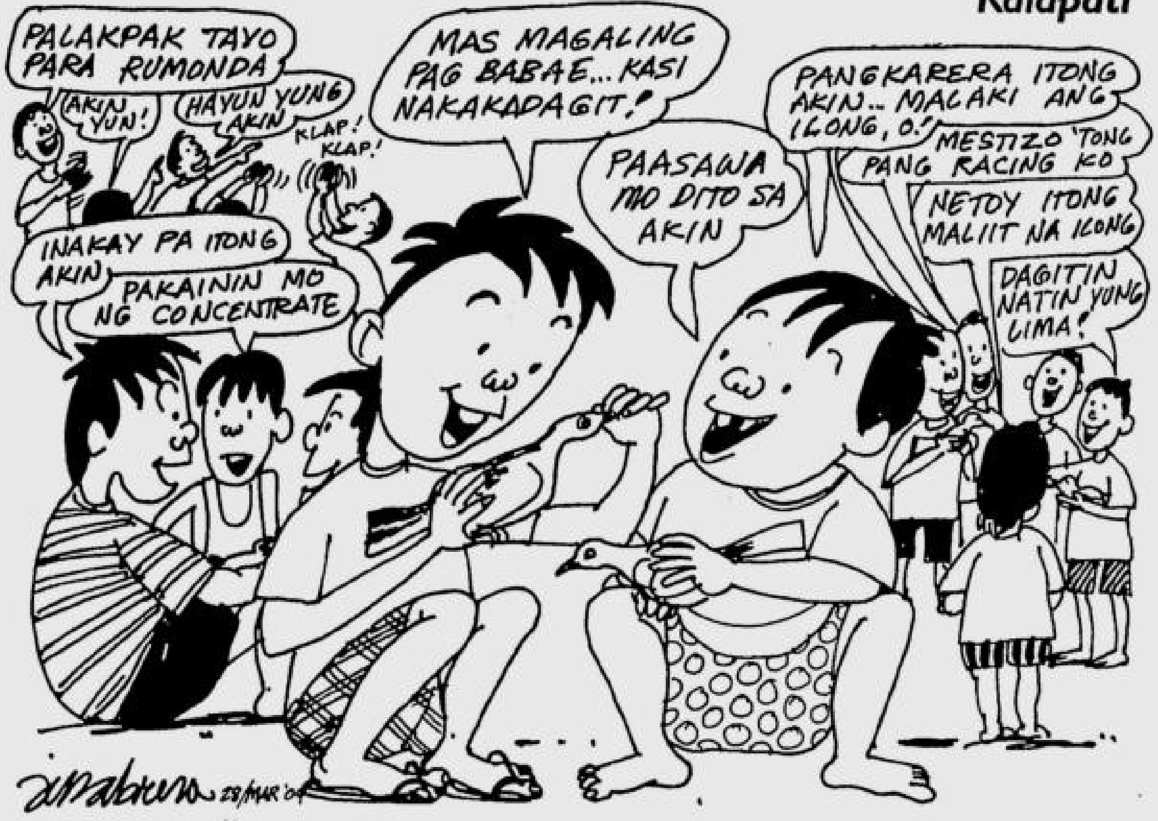
- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

Pinoy Nga!

By Jess Abrera

Kalapati


PALAKPAK TAYO PARA RUMONDA
AKIN YUN!
HAYUN YUNG AKIN
KLAP! KLAP!
INAKAY PA ITONG AKIN
PAKAININ MO NG CONCENTRATE
MAS MAGALING PAG BABAE... KASI NAKAKADAGIT!
PAASAWA MO DITO SA AKIN
PANGKARERA ITONG AKIN.. MALAKI ANG ILONG, O!
MESTIZO 'TONG PANG RACING KO
NETOY ITONG MALIIT NA ILONG
DAGITIN NATIN YUNG LIMA!
28/MAR'04

Marked

...from page 4

a big house and a fancy car is not a priority with us. We want to have security, sure, but we also want to remain relevant to the times."

Awareness

As Executive Director of the Kalakasan Foundation (for *Kababaihan Laban sa Karahasan*), Kala does more than her share of being socially relevant by addressing the issue of violence against women (VAW). "I learned about VAW as chief of staff of women's representative Patricia Sarenas, who was one of the sponsors of the recently-approved Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act." While Sarenas was herself a VAW survivor, Kala traces her awareness of the problem to her personal encounters with it inside and outside the Leftist movement. "It was an issue that was deemed invisible and secondary especially when compared to the larger struggle for national liberation," she cites. Being with Kalakasan, she can now come out and talk about it and reach out to those who still grapple with the problem. "Our NGO provides counseling, referral to needed legal and medical services, shelter, even rescue from abusive spouses. We also have a hotline (735-5555) where a feminist counselor is on standby from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday."

The next logical step to further push women's rights is joining mainstream politics, which Kala did, albeit reluctantly. "My mother's really happy but I'm not very comfortable with such a public role," she says. Although she's acted in street theater as part of Teatro Babaylan in college, she is more comfortable behind the cameras, says this former segment producer for the progressive television show XYZ that targeted young female viewers.

Representing aspirations

At the same time, Kala says she knows that getting into electoral office would help her particular advocacy—reproductive health. "There's been intense debate and a lot of negative reactions based on misinformation so I'd like to work on it," she says. Only 33, Kala says she also hopes to represent the aspirations of other young women.

Kala is one of the five nominees of the women's sectoral party Abanse! Pinay who is running as congressional representative under the partylist system. The other nominees from the party are Remmy Rikken, former executive director of the National Commission on Women and a stalwart of the Phlippine NGO and cooperatives community; Atty. Alice Morada, a human rights lawyer handling VAW cases in Cebu for over a decade now, Muslim activist Yasmin Busran-Lao, and barangay captain and expert on local governance La Rainne Sarmiento.

While politics is a relatively new experience for Kalayaan, her name can only prove to be a plus this time. One, it's unique enough to be easily remembered and two, it might as well be the battle cry of women going to the polls this May.

Love Notes

By Joe D' Mango

When Love Isn't Enough

They say that a relationship requires three main ingredients—respect, trust and love. In my relationship there's only love

Dear Joe,

I've always wondered about what I really wanted. Being in a relationship for four years now, I thought I couldn't ask for more.

Joe, I have been the perfect girlfriend all this time. Until that fine evening when, in the middle of dinner, he blurted out "Will you marry me?" It felt like everything was falling into place. Of course, I said yes.

So, we went on with the planning, but as we moved on from the wedding date to the place and reception, somebody suddenly woke me from my dream—and my fairytale turned into a nightmare.

My boyfriend is a very responsible man. He is sweet and I'm sure that he loves me. But I'm just not sure if he loves me all that much. For years I have been convincing myself that he is the one, though my friends and close relatives told me that he's not good enough for me. He's cheated on me thrice and even left me once when he thought that he was falling in love with another woman. In the end, he went back to me and I immediately accepted him with open arms. There was this one time when a close colleague asked me, "What was the sweetest thing your boyfriend has ever done for you?" Believe it or not, I still have no answer to that question.

Joe, they say a relationship requires three main ingredients—respect, trust and love. In my relationship there's only love. The two other ingredients are missing. I do try to trust him despite the fact that he has cheated on me.

Then, I realized that love isn't enough to make a relationship survive. Now, I want more respect, attention and care. I may have wasted four years but I don't regret it, for without those four years I would not have seen my worth. Without him I would have not known that a woman has to be treated like a gift that a man has been waiting for.

The wedding has been called off and my relationship has ended. Joe, it hurts to let go of something you have loved for a long time but deep in my heart I know this is the best way to find myself. Before, I was scared to be alone but now I know that being alone doesn't make me less of a person. That will carry me through this pain, until I find love again or should I say, until I find true love for the first time.

Sincerely,
Allyna

Allyna,

Thank you for letting us into a very meaningful part of your life. We have learned important lessons from it.

It is always easy to say that we can love unconditionally without having to expect anything from someone we love. But the truth is, loving unconditionally is very difficult. Love can drive us to a point where we start not to care about anything but just loving a person, in spite of his or her infidelity, insensitivity or lack of respect to what we feel. But there is always a limit to our sacrifices. No matter how we try to become insensitive to how someone treats us, we always come to a point where we expect appreciation, respect and acknowledgement. There may only be a few who would be able to give love unconditionally without having the need to be recognized.

There are many small things in a relationship that mean a lot to women. Things that men do not give so much meaning to actually matter to their partners. Being sensitive to the needs of the people we love is very important. We constantly have to make an extra effort to make others feel that they are important to us and the small things they do are appreciated. The greatness of a relationship is built on the foundation of small acts of kindness, love and compassion.

Trust is also very important. But the sad fact is, every time it is broken, only a few give themselves the chance to trust again and give their partners an opportunity to redeem themselves. We all make mistakes and in love, there should always be room for forgiveness and acceptance. There is no such thing as a perfect relationship. We all have to live with the imperfection of our partners.

Let us always remember: In the end it is not how much love we have received that would count, but how much love we have given and how much more we are willing to give even without the promise of earning it back.

Robin Padilla teams up with top HK director for new Argentina Corned Beef Extra Long Shreds TVC

Top action superstar Robin Padilla has teamed up with famous Hong Kong director Alexi Tan for the new Argentina Corned Beef Extra Long Shreds TV commercial (TVC).

The commercial introduces the new corned beef variant that has the brand's original delicious taste, with extra long shreds.

Now showing on primetime television, the new TVC uses a look and concept rarely done in local TV commercials. In the tradition of the popular film, *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, the new TVC features stylized fighting scenes where Robin battles ninjas out to disrupt his meal of Argentina Corned Beef Extra Long Shreds.

Despite his busy schedule, shooting six days a week for his popular TV series *Basta't Kasama Kita*, Robin was eager to be a part of the new Argentina Extra Long Shreds Corned Beef TVC. "For one, I like Argentina Corned Beef; it's very tasty," he relates. "It's also H*alal* food so I can enjoy it without straying from my religious duties."

He also sees the commercial as "an opportunity to try something new and different. Some of the stunts for the TVC involved using a harness, which I've never done before," said Robin. He also had to learn some kung fu moves. "The stuntmen have actually worked with Jacky Chan in his movies," enthused Robin, "They really know what they're doing, and for me to be working with them and learning more about martial arts was a great experience."

Robin with (from left) Operations Head Rex Agarrado, Marketing Manager Ed Canta, Marketing Director Raffy Lantin and Trade Marketing Manager Pet Sarinas of The Pacific Meat Company.

Behind-the-scenes: Robin getting pointers from Alexi.

The new TVC is actually a short film where Robin plays a cop, a role very similar to his character in his TV series. The TVC opens with Robin, who, after a long day's work, plans to enjoy a meal of his favorite Argentina Corned Beef Extra Long Shreds. But while cooking, ninjas suddenly appeared to attack him, and what follows is a brilliant display of fighting scenes and stunts typical of Hong Kong martial arts flicks.

Robin stressed that while the stunts were hard to do, he nonetheless enjoyed the experience, "After all, it's not everyday that you're given a chance to work with such a talented and famed director," stressed Robin. "Alexi was just great, and very helpful; he was able to incorporate my own action moves with the more precise movements of kung fu."

The Hong Kong-based Alexi is known throughout Asia for his skill in art direction and photography. Some of Alexi's commercials have been included in *Shots*, a compilation of the best advertising in the world. Alexi's two-minute TVC for Acer computers, which was also in feature-film style and where he worked with the Oscar-winning production designer of *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, won the London International Advertising Award.

For the new TVC, Alexi introduces a feature-film kind of feel to the production. "Our goal is to get the message of a new and exciting product across while providing viewers with an entertaining piece of film."

Alexi also brings in his love of martial arts. "I love everything about kung fu; there is an artistry behind the movements," related Alexi. "In filming this commercial, I try to add modern elements, or the Hollywood style, to the traditional kung fu fight scene." Alexi brought in his own crew from Hong Kong, from the director of photography to the stunt crew, to keep the martial arts theme authentic.

As the first Filipino celebrity Alexi had the opportunity to work with, Robin earned nothing but praises from the Hong Kong-based director. "Being an action star, Robin is perfect for this role, and we tried to blend Hong Kong fighting style with Robin's own moves." He added, "Robin is really on track when it comes to action movies, he knows the action cinema language. He's very hard working and he's always ready to try something different."

"Working on the new Argentina Corned Beef Extra Long Shreds TVC is really a welcome break," Robin remarked. Aside from the fact that he enjoyed working with Alexi and his team, the product itself is a personal favorite of the actor. "I'd definitely fight ninjas and more for corned beef this good," he said with a grin.

As the new TVC shows, one will do anything to make sure nothing gets in the way of enjoying Argentina Corned Beef Extra Long Shreds. It's still the tasty, delicious Argentina Corned Beef made even better.

Cooking up his favorite Argentina Corned Beef Extra Long Shreds

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